

# Once Upon a Time ... The Tools and Tales of Storytelling

Judy Sima

As storytellers, we often purchase books. But how can we evaluate if we really need a particular book? A few simple questions can help you answer this recurring question for tellers.

## What to look for before you put your money down

1. What is my purpose for considering this purchase?
  - a. What is it about this resource that appeals to me?
  - b. Does it cover some aspect of storytelling I am interested in?
  - c. How will this resource help me learn or improve my storytelling?
  - d. Does it provide new information?
  - e. What audiences could I use it with?
2. What do I notice as I browse through the book?
  - a. Check the introduction: What is the purpose of the book?
  - b. Check the Table of Contents: What stories or information does it contain?
  - c. Read a story or a few pages: Is the book well written, clear?
  - d. Look for a list of sources, bibliography, indexes, glossary, helpful hints, illustrations: What are the special features?
3. What do I already have in my collection?
  - a. Does this resource compliment what I already own or is it completely different?
  - b. Will this resource add to a genre I am building?

4. Do I recognize and respect the author?
  - a. What are the author's credentials?
  - b. What other books has he/she written?
5. What do the reviews say?
  - a. Check: [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com)
  - b. What do Library review sources say?
  - c. What do people who own the book say about it?
6. Will I get enough out of this resource to warrant the price?
7. Can I get this book through my library (or interlibrary loan) or borrow it from a friend?



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