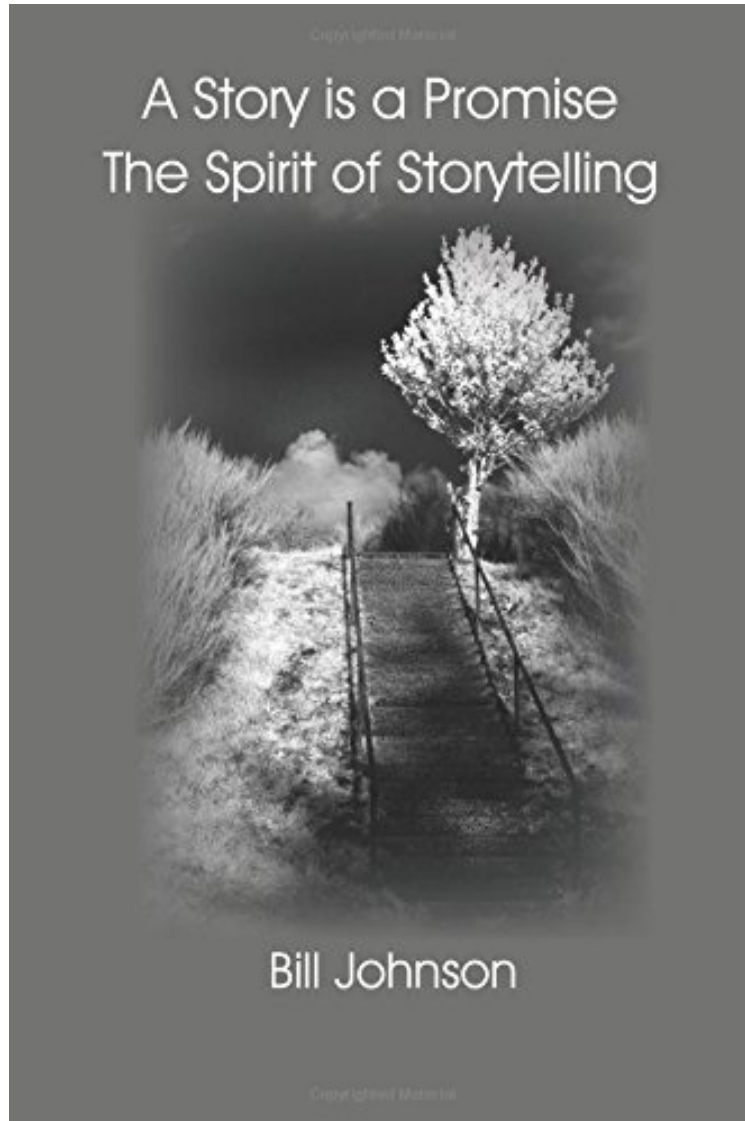


[Free] A Story is a Promise The Spirit of Storytelling

A Story is a Promise The Spirit of Storytelling

Bill Johnson

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Bill Johnson : A Story is a Promise The Spirit of Storytelling before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised A Story is a Promise The Spirit of Storytelling:

5 of 5 people found the following review helpful. This is a writers bibleBy Mindy S. HALLECKBill Johnson is a master at understanding the how and why of creating characters. In A Story is a Promise The Spirit of Storytelling Johnson seamlessly pulls together key aspects of story-telling from premise to promise, dramatic moments and dramatic truths he gives the reader the necessary techniques to bring their stories into full bloom. Whether youre stuck on enhancing your dialogue, plot or conflict there is a chapter to aid you in your story creation, recovery, or rescue.

And for me, someone who needs examples, he uses plenty of examples and literary references which were most helpful. This is a writer's bible, and should be read and re-read until your storytelling is perfection, and as soon as you actually think that, you need to read it again. Love this book. 2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Definitely worth reading. By Ashley This is one of those rare books that fundamentally shifted my paradigm. I'm not even a story writer; for me, it helped me better appreciate books and movies because now I am able to analyze and know WHY I did or didn't like a book or movie and then discuss it intelligently instead of basing my judgments on feelings alone. I am also now able to appreciate some aspects of movies and books...for example, the story telling, or the character development...while separating them from aspects I didn't care for...the way in which story was resolved (or perhaps the lack of resolution, or the fact that the movie continued for 30 minutes AFTER the story was resolved), for example...rather than just disregarding the whole thing because of one part I didn't like...which makes it a lot more enjoyable to go with a friend to a movie that maybe isn't to my taste. 4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. A Valuable Resource For Writers. By A. R. Arias Wow! I've had this book (Kindle version) for some time and refer to it constantly because it has so much to offer. It's one of the few books I consider that really helped me understand what it takes to develop and write an effective and powerful story. Bill Johnson really knows how to lay it out and put it all into perspective by revealing the key elements and techniques that go into storytelling by using plenty of examples and literary references. I only wish I'd read it before I started writing my first novel. But luckily, many things are fixable so that's what I did and it's made a big difference. Let's face it, it's a long and winding road to publication, but this is one tool you're going to need if you want to break through. You simply can't go wrong with this book. It's a goldmine of important information you really need to know if you want to infuse your work with all the right stuff. Get it. It's all good.

This is the writing workbook that will help new or struggling writers to understand both the art and craft of storytelling. This book has three sections. A Story is a Promise explores the mechanics of telling a story. Deep Characterization explores what happens when an author makes characters an extension of the author's issues. The Spirit of Storytelling suggests techniques for authors to create characters with fully realized inner lives; characters who are vibrant, dynamic, and resonate with readers. The book includes a link to an outline of *The Lovely Bones* and a diagram for developing the dramatic truths of characters, and new reviews of popular movies, including *Inception*, and detailed reviews of *Romeo and Juliet* (the play), *The Heidi Chronicles* (play), *The Shawshank Redemption* and *The Usual Suspects* (movies), and *The Lovely Bones* (novels). These reviews are meant to help writers understand the underlying process that creates popular stories. Learn storytelling from the reading or watching the stories you love!

I have never reviewed anything on before but I feel so indebted to Bill Johnson that I have to give him a review. I went to a big name film school for college and throughout the entire 4 years and thousands of dollars, I never learned more about storytelling than I did reading this 3 dollar kindle book. Bill Johnson really gives you the map to the maze. After 6 years of making movies, I had some idea on what made a story work and what didn't, but Bill Johnson really gives the theoretical groundwork to what makes a story resonate with an audience. Thank You Bill! Wow! I've had this book (Kindle version) for some time and refer to it constantly because it has so much to offer. It's one of the few books I consider that really helped me understand what it takes to develop and write an effective and powerful story. Bill Johnson really knows how to lay it out and put it all into perspective by revealing the key elements and techniques that go into storytelling by using plenty of examples and literary references. This book lays bare the essential aspects of storytelling. I've recently published a memoir, "Last Chance to be a Cowboy", but it was purely "by the seat of my pants", intuitive writing. If I had the good fortune of reading Bill Johnson's book first, I would have known how to structure my book in a way that would have pulled readers into my story and compelled them to keep reading. I also am ordering another copy to send to my son, Sam, a naturally talented writer. From the Author When I was young, I was an intuitive writer. I once wrote nine plays in one year, including full lengths. But my writing always hit a certain ceiling. Then I took a class from story analyst David Morgan, who taught me that understanding storytelling was something that could be understood. I've spent my life going down that road, gathering and sharing understanding. I welcome you to join me, for as long as it suits you. Bill From the Inside Flap Foreword Twenty-eight years making short films had convinced me I was well prepared to write a screenplay or a novel. I'd written, produced, and directed almost a hundred films for theatrical release, television, corporate presentations, documentaries, and education, receiving forty-four awards and a grant from the American Film Institute. Yet, as I struggled to write my first novel, I soon floundered and found myself lost in a maze without a map. What I hadn't grasped was how great the leap from a short film to a novel or feature length script. I began to read everything I could find on writing novels and screenplays, nearly eighty books altogether. Each focused on pieces of the larger picture, not the whole. All were filtered through the author's own unique perspective, each different enough from the others to create confusion. They wrote as though the essential principals of dramatic writing were too vast for anyone to cover in a single book. However, a handful did come close enough to convince me it was possible. I also had this nagging feeling there was a higher level to storytelling that none of them were discussing, and I sensed that if I didn't understand that, I wasn't going

anywhere. One night in March, 1995, while searching the Writer's Forum on AOL, I came across a series of postings that got my attention. They began, "I would like to open a discussion into story movement, what it is, and how to create it." I read them all, then read them again. Nothing I'd come across before had so clearly cut to the very essence of how to tell a story. Here was someone who understood that higher level for which I aspired and who knew how to teach it. Though I'd never met him, I offered my help as an editor. Perhaps I could be a sounding board for his ideas, someone to raise questions. I was pleasantly surprised when he responded to my email by accepting my offer. It was the start of a lasting friendship that began my own journey into the heart of storytelling. It would change my writing life forever. I'd read many a story but never fully understood what was behind the paint on the walls. It was clear that stories worked, but why did the writer choose a particular plot, or set of characters, or locale, or the individual words on the page for that matter? The beauty of what Bill does is contained in the series of steps he led me through, each building on the previous one, until I could see those principals in action in a story I was writing. He even taught me how to go about choosing the right dramatic words--no small feat. For the first time, things began to make sense and my writing began to steadily improve. As time went by, Bill's personalized style of teaching was an inspiration. I was struck by the fact that this book was written in the same conversational style, one on one, as though Bill were talking to me, anticipating my questions, even raising issues that stimulated my thinking about the story I was writing, or one that I planned to write. It was clear that from his years of teaching experience that he could anticipate the kinds of questions I might ask, and even anticipate why I asked them. I came to realize that Bill has a unique understanding of what a writer needs to know to become a storyteller and all of that is reflected in this book. Now, whenever I'm in the midst of writing a story and am uncertain about where it's going or how to get there, this is the book I return to time and again for answers and inspiration. Lawrence Booth Founder, Half Moon Bay Film School