



NATIVE AMERICAN

Heroes & Legends

Te Ata Thompson Fisher, whose name means “Bearer of the Morning,” was born Dec. 3, 1895, near present day Emet, Oklahoma. A citizen of the Chickasaw Nation, Te Ata was an accomplished actor and Native American storyteller. She received her early education in Tishomingo, and eventually went to the Oklahoma College for Women in Chickasha, Oklahoma. While there, it was evident Te Ata had a natural talent for drama.

Although Te Ata worked as an actor and drama instructor, she is best known for her artistic interpretations of Indian stories and for the children’s book she co-authored on the subject. Her world-renowned talent won her several honors, including a 1924 cover in *McCall’s* magazine, induction into the Oklahoma Hall of Fame in 1957, being named *The Ladies’ Home Journal* Woman of the Year in 1976, being named Oklahoma’s first State Cultural Treasure in 1987, induction into the Chickasaw Hall of Fame in 1990 and having a lake near Bear Mountain in New York named in her honor.

Practice your own story telling...

Story telling can be a great way to share history or to pass down information, values or morals with others. **We can all be story tellers.**

Try this:

- 1) Select an animal or object in nature that you can use to tell your story and create your own storybook (5 – 8 pages).
- 2) Be creative and provide illustrations for each page of your story.
- 3) Use your story to highlight a piece of history, a set of values or to illustrate your own morals.
- 4) Get into groups of 3 – 5 students and take turns telling your story to your classmates.

Have fun with your story telling – be expressive, change your voice for different characters and feel free to act out various parts of the story if you wish.

**Enter to win and have your story featured on
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