

# CVUUF Resources for the theme of Story - November 2017

## Movies & Television

### ***Boyhood***

Epic in technical scale but breathlessly intimate in narrative scope, *Boyhood* is a sprawling investigation of the human condition.

<https://www.rottentomatoes.com/m/boyhood/>

### ***Big Fish***

If you come from a family of storytellers, there's no better (or worse) way to celebrate the tradition than by watching *Big Fish*.

[http://www.rottentomatoes.com/m/1127787-big\\_fish/](http://www.rottentomatoes.com/m/1127787-big_fish/)

### ***The Thin Blue Line***

Yes, it's called a documentary but this is really one of the best detective stories you'll ever encounter. A great adventure into how deeply we can believe that we possess the "truth of the story" but still be wrong!

[http://www.rottentomatoes.com/m/thin\\_blue\\_line/](http://www.rottentomatoes.com/m/thin_blue_line/)

### ***Monumental Myths***

Travel across the United States in a 1965 Airstream Trailer as filmmaker Tom Trinley visits historic sites and monuments unveiling the many sides of history not told on the landscape or in history books. On-camera appearances by Howard Zinn, James Loewen, Lonnie Bunch and Adam "Fortunate Eagle" Nordwall. Inspired by "Lies My Teacher Told Me" and "A Peoples' History of the United States."

Full Movie here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cQIMrw8gSVQ>

### ***The Untold History Of The United States***

There is a classified America we were never meant to see. From Academy Award®-winning writer/director Oliver Stone, this ten-part documentary series looks back at human events that at the time went underreported, but that crucially shaped America's unique and complex history over the 20th century. From the atomic bombing of Japan to the Cold War and the fall of Communism, this in-depth, surprising, and totally riveting series demands to be watched again and again.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tNM9lOFRgCI>

[http://www.watchseries.ac/serie/The\\_Untold\\_History\\_of\\_the\\_United\\_States](http://www.watchseries.ac/serie/The_Untold_History_of_the_United_States)

### ***Race: The Power of an Illusion***

"In producing this series, we felt it was important to go back to first principles and ask, What is this thing called "race?" - a question so basic it is rarely raised. What we discovered is that most of our common assumptions about race - for instance, that the world's people

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can be divided biologically along racial lines - are wrong. Yet the consequences of racism are very real."

[http://www.pbs.org/race/000\\_General/000\\_00-Home.htm](http://www.pbs.org/race/000_General/000_00-Home.htm)

### ***A Prairie Home Companion***

A celebration of the power of storytelling.

[https://www.rottentomatoes.com/m/prairie\\_home\\_companion/](https://www.rottentomatoes.com/m/prairie_home_companion/)

### ***The Fog of War***

A sad but mesmerizing exploration about how power and war almost always leads one to twist the story.

[http://www.rottentomatoes.com/m/fog\\_of\\_war/](http://www.rottentomatoes.com/m/fog_of_war/)

### ***Stories We Tell***

Families create their own narratives. Stories are passed on from generation to generation, and in this way the past continues to live, but it can also be obscured or distorted. Family arguments often come down to who "owns" the narrative, or which version is decided upon as the "true" one. Sarah Polley's fascinating documentary, "Stories We Tell," is ostensibly about her mother, Diane Polley, who died in 1990. A powerful and thoughtful film, it is also not what it at first seems, which is part of the point Polley appears to be interested in making. Can the truth ever actually be known about anything?

<http://storieswetellmovie.com/>

## **Books**

### ***The Truth About Stories* by Thomas King**

"Stories are wondrous things. And they are dangerous." In *The Truth About Stories*, Native novelist and scholar Thomas King explores how stories shape who we are and how we understand and interact with other people. ... With wry humor, King deftly weaves events from his own life as a child in California, an academic in Canada, and a Native North American with a wide-ranging discussion of stories told by and about Indians. ... King reminds the reader, Native and non-Native, that storytelling carries with it social and moral responsibilities. "Don't say in the years to come that you would have lived your life differently if only you had heard this story. You've heard it now."

<http://tinyurl.com/jd2gz25>

### ***The World Is Made of Stories* by David R. Loy, a Buddhist writer**

In this dynamic and utterly novel presentation, David Loy explores the fascinating proposition that the stories we tell — about what is and is not possible, about ourselves, about right and wrong, life and death, about the world and everything in it — become the very building blocks of our experience and of reality itself. Loy uses an intriguing mixture of quotations from familiar and less-familiar sources and brief stand-alone micro-essays, engaging the reader in challenging and illuminating dialogue. ... Reminiscent of Zen koans and works of sophisticated poetry, this book will reward both a casual read and deep reflection.

<http://tinyurl.com/jf9x56l>

### ***Everything Is Illuminated* by Jonathan Safran Foer**

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With only a yellowing photograph in hand, a young man sets out to find the woman who might or might not have saved his grandfather from the Nazis. Accompanied by an old man haunted by memories of the war, an amorous dog named Sammy Davis, Junior, Junior, and the unforgettable Alex, a young Ukrainian translator who speaks in a sublimely butchered English, the young man is led on a quixotic journey to discover the truth of another's story that ends up helping him see the truth of his own.

***Life of Pi* by Yann Martel**

When Pi is sixteen, his family emigrates from India to North America aboard a Japanese cargo ship, along with their zoo animals bound for new homes. The ship sinks. Pi finds himself alone in a lifeboat, his only companions a hyena, an orangutan, a wounded zebra, and Richard Parker, a 450-pound Bengal tiger. Soon the tiger has dispatched all but Pi, whose fear, knowledge, and cunning allow him to coexist with Richard Parker for 227 days while lost at sea. When they finally reach the coast of Mexico, Richard Parker flees to the jungle, never to be seen again. The Japanese authorities who interrogate Pi refuse to believe his story and press him to tell them "the truth." After hours of coercion, Pi tells a second story, a story much less fantastical, much more conventional — but is it more true?

***Kitchen Table Wisdom* and**

***My Grandfather's Blessings: Stories of Strength, Refuge, and Belonging***

**by Rachel Naomi Remen, M.D**

In *My Grandfather's Blessings*, Rachel Naomi Remen, a cancer physician and master storyteller, uses her luminous stories to remind us of the power of our kindness and the joy of being alive.

*About Kitchen Table Wisdom:* This remarkable collection of true stories draws on the concept of "kitchen table wisdom" — the human tradition of shared experience that shows us life in all its power and mystery and reminds us that the things we cannot measure may be the things that ultimately sustain and enrich our lives.

<http://tinyurl.com/js5na5h>

**List of books for children and families about story:**

<https://amzn.com/w/66JE9U4CP03>