Frequently Asked Questions about Play Me a Story

1. What time does Play Me a Story end?

Play Me a Story typically ends between 11:45 PM & 12:00 PM. The run time varies slightly each week because the length of the books differ.

2. What does a typical Play Me a Story schedule look like?

Doors open at 10 AM for the 10:30 AM dramatic reading. We will have a pre-show activity to welcome participants into the space. At 10:30 AM, participants & families will watch a dramatic reading of two picture books and one or two poems by professional actors. Following the reading, participants join in an interactive workshop with our education artists.

3. What are the workshops like?

During the workshops, actors actively engage participants using their bodies, voices, and imaginations to build understanding of the text while bringing the stories and characters to life. The workshops connect theater with literacy by making literature performative and encouraging reading fluency, character recall, understanding of themes, emotional recognition, physical storytelling, and vocal characterization.

Most weeks we will split up into two groups. One group is for 4-6 year olds and the other group is for 7-10 year olds. Sometimes, if we have a small group, everyone will stick together for one workshop.

4. Can my group be in the same workshop?

Please talk to us if you would like your group to stick together for the workshop. Sometimes we find that groups are just fine splitting up but we also know some people like to stick together and we will be able to make an exception. Portland Stage reserves the right to combine programs or extend the ages of the participants at its discretion.

5. Do you do a dramatic reading of the same book each week?

We work with new stories each week! Check out the individual month pages to see the full line-up for each month.
6. What do parents/guardians do during Play Me a Story?

Adults are welcome to watch the performance along with their child. Our professional actors do a lovely job acting out these stories & we have found that it is fun for the whole family to watch. During the workshops, families can either go up to our lobby for coffee or watch their participant engage in the activities in the workshop. If you would like to drop your participant off, please contact education@portlandstage.org to discuss it further. Typically families stay for the duration of the program but we are happy to talk about alternatives for your family if needed.

7. Can I drop my participant off & pick them up at the end?

If you would like to drop your participant off, please contact education@portlandstage.org to discuss it further. We ask that parents/guardians stay for the duration of the program if it is the participant’s first Play Me a Story experience. If you would like to drop your 7-10 year old off, we ask that you provide your phone number & are back by 11:45. Parents/guardians of 4-6 year olds are asked to stay in the building for the duration of the program.