

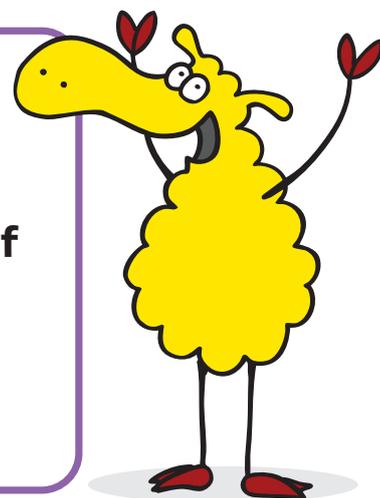


# Tonight in the Palace



**Andrew McDonough**

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This book is available from all good bookstores (and a few dodgy ones). For activity books and Sheepdog School resources visit [www.lostsheep.com.au](http://www.lostsheep.com.au).

# Storytelling Tips!

## READY!

### 1 Know your story.

Run through the story in the prompt booklet a few times reading aloud – yes, aloud. Do this until you feel comfortable with the rhythm and direction of the story.

### 2 Practise your introduction and application.

This is where most people struggle with children's talks. In 'The Front Page' section we have provided simple 'Before the story' and 'After the story' ideas. Use these ideas to develop an introduction and application for your story. If you practise these, your story time will begin well and end with strength and clarity. You will notice that each story begins and ends with the Lost Sheep logo slide. Make sure this is on the screen during your introduction and application. If you have a picture on the screen the kids will be looking at it rather than listening to you.

## STEADY!

### 3 Have a helper.

Having someone else click through the pictures frees you up to tell the story. Print off a prompt booklet for the operator. Here is an important tip: Practise together beforehand and make sure the operator clicks to the next picture before you start telling that bit of the story. If the picture is on the screen before you begin speaking to it, the story will flow smoothly. Timing is everything, so practise until you and your operator are a seamless story telling team.

### 4 The computer stuff.

Computers and data projectors are wonderful tools but they are not as fool-proof as books. With a book you never have to worry about whether you will be able to open it or not. Before people enter the room, make sure the Lost Sheep logo is on screen and the operator can easily click through the pictures backwards and forwards.

## GO!

### 5 Tell the story!

Reading the story is fine, telling the story is better. Use the prompt booklet but remember that eye contact and interaction with the children is more important than being word perfect. You're the story teller, you don't have to stick to the script! Enjoy yourself!

# Operator Tips!

Just quietly, we know you're the brains behind this whole operation. You've got two important jobs. The first is to get the story up and running. The second is to click through the pictures during the story.

## 1 Starting up.

Which Version should I use?

For the best quality pictures and smoothest ride use the 'flash' file with the 'Play' icon. There is a Windows and MAC version. Just follow the instructions below. We've also included a Powerpoint version. This is handy if you want to drop the story into another presentation, use a data projector clicker. You know how to drive a powerpoint, so we won't bore you with instructions.

Click the 'Play' icon and the story will open. The copyright screen will appear then fade out after 10 seconds. The Lost Sheep logo marks the beginning of the story.



## 2 Driving this thing.

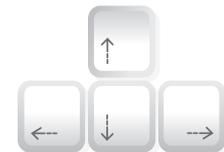
It's a breeze. There are three easy ways to click through the story.



Click anywhere on the screen using your mouse to go to the next picture.

Move your mouse to the bottom right of your screen and a toolbar will appear. Click these buttons to go backwards, forwards or to exit the story.

Press the right arrow to go to the next picture. Press the left arrow to go back to the previous picture.



## 3 Tricky stuff.



Press the 'F' key to toggle 'Full-Screen' mode. This may be useful if your projector is set up as a second monitor. Pressing 'F' will

minimise the window, and allow you to drag it across the screen. Press 'F' again, and the window will appear 'Full-Screen' again.



Press the 'Q' key to quit.

## 4 During the story.

No pressure, but you must have the right picture on the screen at the right time. Practise with the storyteller beforehand. Follow your prompt booklet closely—timing is everything. Make sure the Lost Sheep logo slide is on the screen while the Storyteller introduces and applies the story. Have fun!

## Cecil's Page

Hi Friends,

**Tonight in the Palace** is based on the account of Jesus' birth in Luke 2:8-20. Everyone knows that baby kings are born in a royal palace! Well, that's what my friends and I thought! But to our amazement we discovered that Jesus, the greatest king ever, was born in humble surroundings. We may not have managed to eat pavlova, see the royal jugglers or dance with Princess Natasha but we're not complaining. We met the king and we wouldn't swap that for anything!

### Before the Story

Begin by asking,

"If you received an invitation to visit a king, what would you look forward to the most?"

I'm sure you and the kids can brainstorm a long list of exciting things (Go to town! Encourage the kids to let their imaginations run wild!).

Then you can say,

"Let me tell you a story about a bunch of friends who get all excited when invited to visit a king."

### Tell the Story

### After the Story

Ask the kids if they know who the baby king is and when we celebrate his birthday. (Hint: His name is Jesus!)

Christmas is a time of excitement and anticipation for children (and sheep) - and so it should be! Some of us get excited about jugglers and jesters, others about pudding and presents. These things are all fantastic but the best thing about Christmas is the birth of Jesus the King who brings life and hope. What was Good News at the first Christmas is still the Good News today!

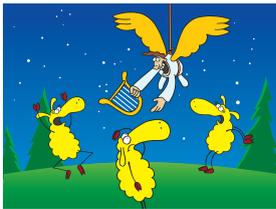
God's Blessing,  
Cecil.



It was late at night and all the sheep  
were in their beds and fast asleep.  
They snuggled up, while Cecil snored ...



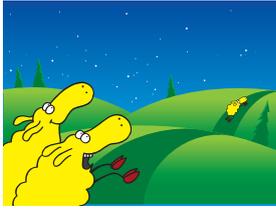
when out of heaven, an angel soared.



“Wake up, sheep! Wake up!” he said.  
“Stop yer dreamin’, get out of bed.  
Listen, sheep, good news I bring.  
In Bethlehem is born a king!  
He’s cute, he’s cuddly,  
he’s nine pound ten.  
So what are you waiting for?  
Visit him then!”



Visit the king! This’ll be fine,  
tonight in the palace we’re going to dine.  
We’ll start with pavlova, then peacock eggs fried,  
with fancy fresh mushrooms piled up on the side.  
Load up on lobster, dunk in the dips,  
bypass the salad and pig out on chips,  
then finally finish with a small minty thing,  
that’s what you eat in the house of the king!



With stomachs rumbling, they leapt out of bed,  
charged over the hill and then Cecil said,



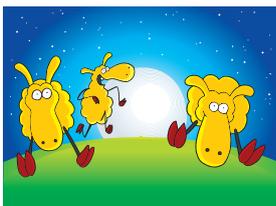
Visit the king! Way to go!  
Royalty throw a spectacular show!  
There'll be jugglers 'n' jesters and gymnasts galore,  
sword swallows, fire eaters, but wait there's more!



Trev and the Bad Boys blasting out tunes  
while deadly dirt bikes are ridden by hoons.



Then fireworks shot from the boat in the moat  
'cos that's how a king gets the popular vote.



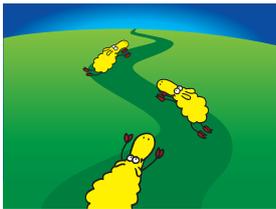
Down the Bethlehem road they run at a trot  
when Cecil yells out, "Hey fellas, guess what!"



Visit the king, this'll be neat!  
Think of the people we're going to meet!  
The Belgian ambassador, the Sultan of Malta,  
the Olympic swim team, and a pole vaulter!



We'll dance the night away with Princess Natasha.  
She's style, she's elegance, an absolute smasher.  
With the beautiful people we'll be ming-el-ing  
that's who you meet in the house of the king!



Down the Bethlehem road, around all the bends,  
when Cecil called out to all of his friends,



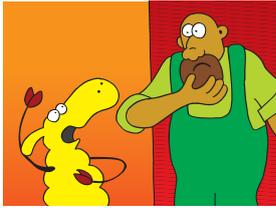
Visit the king! This'll be ace!  
Kings always live in a big fancy place!  
We'll slide down the banisters, swing from the drapes,  
splash in the bath, swim in the lakes,  
slouch in the bean bags, skate down the hall,  
sneak out the back, then when we've done it all ...



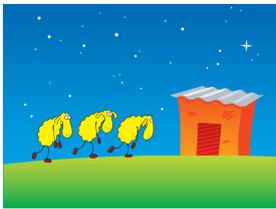
sleep in four poster beds with plenty of spring,  
that's where one sleeps in the house of the king!



But in Bethlehem, they wandered around,  
the king, and his palace, nowhere to be found.  
Then Meredith said “Here’s some suggestions,  
let’s, go to the pub ...  
and ask for directions!”



The publican listened to what the sheep said,  
scratched at his beard, then shook his head,  
“I don’t know no palace, an’ I don’t know no king.  
But that Princess Natasha’s a pretty young thing.  
We don’t do pavlova, besides you’re too late,  
we’ve run outta schnitzel, chef knocked off at eight.  
I ain’t got no room, an’ I ain’t got no bed.  
Heck, the last lot that rocked up, I shoved in the shed.”



Visit the king, why’d we come all this way?  
Let’s head out to the back and crash on the hay.



Out in the shed was this bloke and a lady.  
There goes our sleep, she’s holding a baby!  
Those things grizzle and howl and cry – but then ...  
he’s cute, he’s cuddly, he’s nine pound ten.



It was late at night  
snuggled up with the sheep,  
the newborn king  
was fast asleep.