



Seven Marigolds

Seven Steps to Create a Bilingual Book with English Language Learners^{*}

Here is a very brief outline of the steps the New Hampshire Humanities Council (Now New Hampshire Humanities) took to create a bilingual Nepali-English book with Bhutanese students in Laconia, NH, in a Lutheran Social Services ESOL class. For more steps, see our blog: <https://storyofapumpkin.wordpress.com>.

- 1. Create a bilingual book committee.** Choose representatives of the culture the tale arises from, an ESOL educator, creators of the book, and possibly a writer, a children's librarian, a community leader, a book designer, a folklorist. Can you pay stipends to creators? Consider writing grants to private or business funders.
- 2. Generate folk tales with the help of an interpreter.** The leader tells a tale as an example to the group of participants. Invite participants to remember a tale told to them when they were children. As a teller tells a story, the interpreter gives a word-by-word interpretation (not a summary). Record each tale in the teller's language and the English interpretation.
- 3. Transcribe the tales.** We selected one tale from the community we worked with to develop into a bilingual picture book. You might choose, instead of a single book, to create an anthology of all the tales collected.
- 4. Illustrate the tale.** Let the community guide you to a respected artist who agrees to serve as illustrator. The illustrator listens to the teller tell the story and, with the book committee, determines the illustrations to be created.
- 5. Write the tale.** If the teller is not also the writer of the tale, identify someone in the community to write the tale in the teller's language, based on the oral telling. English version: adapt the word-by-word interpretation to a telling in English that is accurate and flows for U.S. readers.
- 6. Production and publication.** Layout text and illustrations. Proofread both languages, again and again, with multiple readers. Chose how to publish, from photocopying to e-book to working with a printer.
- 7. Publication party.** Invite people from the community who created the book as well as the wider community. The tellers of the tale are honored and can give the tale to their new countrymen and women.

* "If you listen to a tale you will receive a golden garland." Traditional end to a Bhutanese tale.

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