

Total time:
4-6 hours



Difficulty Level: Challenging

Skill Points:

- Learning how to identify storytelling elements
- Discovering how to work a scene and find the story
- Developing the skills to incorporate storytelling into your photography

STORYTELLING WITH PHOTOGRAPHY



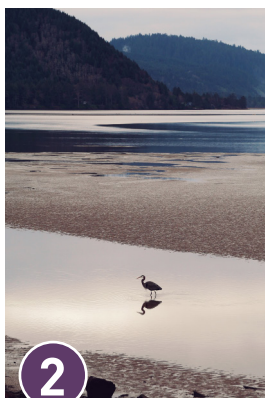
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Storytelling is an art form. For some people, it comes naturally. For everyone else, the good news is... that it's a skill that can be learned, especially as it relates to photography. A good storytelling photograph will always include some element of drama.

KEY LESSON: The key to successful storytelling photography is to be aware of drama and to look for it. Find the drama in what it is you're seeing. The art of storytelling is as old as mankind. If you would like to dig deeper into this subject, check out Photzy's Premium Guide, "Effective Storytelling with Photography".

EQUIPMENT: Any camera including mobile | Any lens

SAMPLE PHOTOGRAPHS



- 1- Storytelling requires drama. Drama elicits a reaction. One way to convey a visual story is through comparisons. The drama of the tiny hand juxtaposed against the larger hand elicits an emotional response. Does it hurt the story that we don't know the relationship between the hands? No. In fact, really good stories often leave some mystery. This allows us, as viewers, to fill in the details in our mind.
- 2- A location such as this landscape is ripe with photo opportunity. However, it's the inclusion of the heron that brings a story element to this shot. Train yourself to look for the less obvious details that will create dramatic effect.
- 3- A simple photo tells a better story. If a viewer has to spend time trying to "figure out" the story, they probably aren't going to "get it". This shot borders on being "too complicated" in its story.
- 4- A story will often develop quickly, and you must be ready. This shot without the driver is meaningless. Including the driver creates the necessary drama to make the shot successful. You will often spot a scene that you want to photograph, wait for a story to develop. Patience often pays off.
- 5- A great story often involves action. Activity always has the potential for creating drama. Watch the activity surrounding the subject. Wait for something to develop.



ACTION ASSIGNMENT!

- 1- Choose a family member, or friend, who has a child. Photograph them and create storytelling photos. Some photos can be obvious in the story. However, try to make some of them less obvious (think of the hands example photo).
- 2- Go to a public venue. For example, go to the zoo, a carnival or fair, an outdoor concert, an outdoor art fair, or a large well occupied park. Stake out an area as your location. It doesn't have to be a single spot, but a general location. Don't wander the entire area. Have your camera ready, watch, and photograph drama that unfolds. Try to create at least 10 successful storytelling shots.

HOW DID YOU DO?

- How many shots did you take at your chosen venue? How many did feel successfully conveyed a story? Print out those shots and share them with family or friends. Ask them, what they think the story is.

READY!SET! GO! **ACTION CARDS - STRETCH GOALS: STORYTELLING**