

# Storytelling As Resistance

Storytelling allows us to imagine futures beyond our own. As a restorative practice and a means of recuperating, storytelling is a powerful tool for Black people to reclaim narratives and center lived experiences in meaningful ways.

**PolicyLink**

## Storytelling in History

Enslaved Africans in America used storytelling as a way of recording experiences. These stories were retold in secret, adapted to changing situations while also adding elements of freedom and hope.

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"We've been doing this for hundreds of years, you know? So this is just using the new kind of accessibility, using the new venues to keep telling the kind of stories that we've always been telling."

## Reclaiming Narratives

Knowledge systems in academic settings delegitimize black storytelling as valid sites of intellectual production. Storytelling offers ways to reclaim and retell histories that often counter the harmful and one-sided narratives about Black peoples.

Dee Rees  
American Screenwriter and Director



## Reflecting & Imagining Futures

Storytelling offers insight that can shed light on possibilities beyond what already exists. It is a means to build bridges of communication, strengthen bonds in the community, and envision more for our world.

## Learn More

[How African American Folklore Saved Cultural Memory](#)

[Black & Indigenous Storytelling As Counter-History](#)

