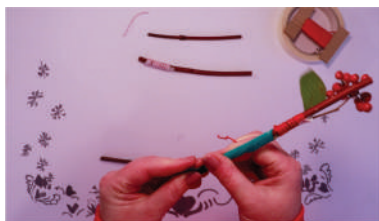




Artist: Siobhán Jordan

# Story Tree

A story stick (or journey stick) is a stick which has collected items tied to it to tell the story of a nature trail or trek. They were used in Aboriginal culture to help recount long journeys and are a lovely way to remind us of the small moments we've had with nature on our own nature trails. I've used story sticks as a starting point for 'story trees'. I'd love for you to go on a winter adventure, in your garden, local park or river bank. Look around for interesting materials to collect. These could be leaves, feathers, seeds, flowers, grasses – anything!



1. Wrap up well and go for a winter walk
2. Collect your treasures.
3. Cut branches to size. Longest at the bottom and smallest at the top. I made mine with 4 tiers, around 20cm at the bottom going gradually to around 7cm at the top.

\*If you have a large wall a large story tree would look amazing!



4. Using your wool, thread and / or fabric strips attach the treasure to the stick. Tie the ends or use glue or tape to secure.
5. Decide what distance you want between each layer and cut wire 6cm longer than this. Mine are around 5cm apart so I cut my wire in 11cm strips.
6. Wrap the wire around the branches to attach them together.



7. Use a longer piece of wire to make a hook at the top to hang your story tree in pride of place.

## Materials

- Twigs / branches for main sticks
- Items you collect on your winter walk which are interesting and exciting to you
- Suggested items to look for :
  - leaves, different shapes and colours
  - seeds / seed heads from trees or plants.
  - Feathers
  - Flowers
  - Berries
  - A basket / bag to collect materials in
  - Scissors / secateurs to use if cutting items off the plant.
  - Thread / wool / scraps of fabrics torn or cut into strips.
  - Wire

## Important Information:

Some berries and seeds are poisonous when ingested. Some plants have a sap which can irritate skin. Be careful when cutting and collecting your materials. Wear gloves and wash hands after.