**100 Word**

Tama’s vivid imagination, expressive manner and colorful language touch minds and hearts through all kinds of stories; folktales, fairy tales, tall tales, personal, historical, and hysterical stories. She is a performing member of the Jonesborough Storytellers Guild, a member of the National Storytelling Network, and has a Master of Arts Degree in Communication - Storytelling from East Tennessee State University. In addition, Tama teaches Communication Studies with Walters State Community College in Morristown as an Adjunct Professor. Tama entertains, uplifts, and connects people to each other and the world we share with delight and enthusiasm through story.

**Long Version**

Born and raised in Northern New York, Tama claims a kindred connection to small town life, and our natural world. She learned young to appreciate good neighbors and the beauty of all four seasons. The youngest of four girls raised in a single parent household, her mother says she was telling stories as soon as she could talk… usually stories about her sisters. After High School, she attended Keuka College in the beautiful Finger Lakes region of New York, graduating with a Bachelor of Social Work degree. She worked in community mental health for several years before the emotional demands drove her into accounting where she spent most of her working life. Between college and accounting she met her husband and moved to the big city, Detroit. There she and her husband raised two sons. As they grew and the city grew, they opted to embrace her husband’s southern roots and moved to Tennessee. It was here Tama discovered storytelling.

In 2014 Tama saw an announcement for a local story slam. As a member of the local Toastmasters, she thought it would be fun and entered the contest. To her surprise, she won! Part of the prize package was two tickets to the Jonesborough Storytellers Guild Tuesday performances. She went to her first show in December of that year and was bitten by the story bug. She joined the Guild and quickly became a performing member. Later she was introduced to the director of the storytelling program at East Tennessee State University. She dismissed the encounter but just two months later enrolled in her first class. In 2019 she graduated with a Master of Arts Degree in Communication – Storytelling.

Tama’s vivid imagination, expressive manner and colorful language touch minds and hearts through all kinds of stories; folktales, fairy tales, tall tales, personal, historical, and hysterical stories. In addition to traditional tales, Tama has crafted several collections of original works. Many of these are focused on storytelling and social justice. Others she tells to honor the memories of those who have moved on. She tells Tom tales in remembrance of her father Tom, and Bob Tales for her husband. Her Master’s Degree allows Tama to teach Communication Studies with Walters State Community College in Morristown as an Adjunct Professor. She uses stories in her classroom to engage students and illustrate communication concepts, although the students find the entertainment is a nice side effect.

Today you can see Tama telling stories and facilitating workshops for the Jonesborough Storytellers Guild, area schools, museums, healthcare facilities, and local festivals. She entertains, uplifts, and connects people to each other and the world we share with delight and enthusiasm through story.