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Red-Faced!

Performance faux pas?

Misspeak?

Fog brain? Worse?

Tellers share some red-faced moments

Once I was telling one of my family stories to a group of third graders. When I said, "My parents were teenagers when the Depression started." I stopped short and looked into their little faces. They were all blank. Of COURSE none of them knew what the Depression was. Why hadn't I figured that out when I was planning my program?

To kill a little time while I was frantically trying to figure out how to explain the Depression to third graders, I asked, "Do any of you know what the Depression was?" I wasn't expecting an answer, just an extra few seconds.

But one boy raised his hand. I nodded at him to speak. "Wasn't that when everyone was poor?"

"Yes indeed, that's an excellent explanation of what the Depression was." I then finished my story.

When in doubt, ask your audience for help, even third graders.

-Kate Dudding, NY

Others experiences shared by Pat Nease, FL, Kim Weitkamp, WV and Antonio Sacre, CA