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## **ABOUT INKLESS TALES AND ELIZABETH WILLIAMS BUSHEY**

**Inkless Tales**, at *www.inklesstales.com*, is a web site for children offering *read-aloud stories*, *poems*, *interactive learning games*, *projects and crafts for offline play, finger puppets and printable theaters to match, music, math, science and more*.

It was created in March, 2001, by writer, illustrator, photographer and web developer **Elizabeth Williams Bushey**. A mother of two young daughters, Bushey was growing





frustrated by her literary agent's lack of attention, as was Bushey's colleague, Newbery Honor author Audrey Couloumbis, who also quit the same agent. At the same time, Bushey noticed a lack of quality content as her own web-savvy children surfed the Internet.

Bushey had content, and the skills to post it to the Internet, and an audience of two, at least. Dubbing the site "*Inkless Tales*" since the stories would be digital, rather than printed on ink and paper, Bushey launched the modest project, and watched in surprise as **month after month the hits nearly** 

**doubled**. Although a former journalist and college public relations coordinator, Bushey never did any marketing for **InklessTales.com**.

It grew on its own to nearly *one million hits a month* — and growing — by December 2008. (Feb 2010 marked TWO million.)

Selected by the American Library Association for its prestigious *Great Sites for Kids* list, and placed in between *Harry Potter* and *Lemony Snicket*, the ALA calls **Inkless Tales.com**"*entertaining and educational*," as well as"*easy to navigate.*"

The behemoth **Internet Public Library** calls **Inkless Tales.com** an "*amazing site*," and gives it a longer and more effusive listing than Suessville. The **Encyclopedia Britannica** short-listed **Inkless Tales.com** on its *World's Best Web Sites*, available exclusively to subscribers at *www.britannica.com*. Very few children's sites have been on that list.

**Reading Is Fundamental (RIF),** approached **Inkless Tales.com** and licensed some of its all-original content for RIF's own newest web initiative, *Leading to Reading*, after which RIF won a **Parents' Choice award.** 

Inkless Tales.com now receives more than one hunred thousand unique page views

monthly, amounting to **approximately two million hits a month**.

Thousands of schools, libraries and museums all over the world link to InklessTales.com as an educational resource, from Bermuda to Hong Kong.

> According to **Google Analytics**, there is literally no place on the planet which does not visit.

InklessTales.com deploys videos, music, crafts instruction, with one video becoming a You Tube

Interactivity is key, with more and more features of the site being launched all the time to encourage participation.

The philosophy of the site is to encourage kids to explore and to learn, and to feel confident in their ability to accomplish anything they set their minds to do — if nothing else, by the example of **Inkless Tales creator, Elizabeth Williams Bushey,** who created and maintains the site entirely on her own: all the words, images, music and programming on **InklessTales.com** is generated entirely by her, except in the rare instances otherwise noted.

For more information about InklessTales.com, or the companion site, InklessTunes.com, where Elizabeth Williams Bushey posts information and MP3 downloads of her newest songs and concert information, please call 530-713-8253, or *e-mail* elizabeth@inklesstales.com.

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