



A good fish story has three dimensions - length, width and depth - and contains, like any good piece of fictional drama, a smattering of truth. (Just a smattering, though.)

Remember, your audience expects entertainment. Be lavish with description as you build toward the thrilling climax. **The Tale:** Ah, yes - I remember that fateful morning well. I rose at 4:30 a.m. to a warm breakfast of eggs Benedict and caviar served on a silver platter and arrived at my secret, secluded fishing spot via chauffeured limousine at exactly 5:19. **The Truth:** Your alarm went off at 4:30, you got up at 7, ate a bowl of cold oatmeal and a piece of last Saturday's pizza, and arrived at the boat landing via a muddy '65 Chevy chauffeured by Bob (your fishing pal with an aversion to soap) about noon.

Good story telling is simply a matter of magnifying small details. **The Tale:** The water was still and smooth, a perfect reflection of the clear blue sky. I cast gracefully, out, oh ... maybe 40, 50 feet with a little rooster tail - just out for a few sunfish, you know - and no sooner did the lure sink that I had a strike. A real strike, I felt the boat roll a good four feet on the swell that monster - what else would you call an 80- pound musky? - made when it took the lure and ran ... **The Truth:** The water was choppy and the sky cloudy and grey. You made a clumsy cast, out, oh ... maybe 10 feet from the boat with a worm that went flying right into Bob's yap and no sooner did the bobber hit the water that Bob belched and the boat rolled a good four feet

You get the idea. Just remember to:

Digress often - the best stories go on for several hours, with breaks for meals, before the fish is caught or gets away (usually the latter).

Add lots of extraneous detail.

Invent any elements necessary to advance the story.

Base the story in truth. Say you went fishing - truthful enough, right? - and the rest will follow.