

Storytelling

Some insights from Matteo a storyteller from Melbourne, Australia

Humans have always used stories to explain the world to each other. You are asked: "What did you do on the weekend?" So you tell a story: "I went to the pool and guess who I saw there?" or "I went to Jenny's birthday party and it was so exciting. We went to the zoo and ate afterwards a lot of cupcakes."

What about a really long time ago, like one hundred years ago. What date would that be? Before everyone had telephones, before cars, before people could travel easily, before electric lights.

A storyteller would come into your village. The storyteller would tell stories from other places, how fascinating. There would also be news. The Miller's want their relatives to know they now have three new children and grandma has passed on. A village ten miles away had a terrible illness that killed half the people, another village had a terrible fire and everyone is busy rebuilding. People paid the storyteller to carry news.

Let's go back even further. People live in caves. There are no shops. A group of hunters have been away for a week. They have returned with meat but one person is missing. That night after everyone has eaten, the hunters act out exciting parts of their adventure and also the sad part where they lost one of the tribe. Everyone gasps and hoos and hars, it's a real drama and will be repeated over and over for the next few weeks.

This is great storytelling and it's in 3D.

Here are the tips that were mentioned in the video:

1) **K.I.S.S.** Keep it short and simple, so that you don't confuse your audience and everyone can follow your story. Also, it will be easier for you.

2) **The Truth.** You want to use elements of your observations but you are invited to veer off and make things up. It might turn into a game. 'True or Not True'.

3) **A Surprise.** If you watched a movie and it was all so ordinary you could easily guess everything that was to happen, what would your experience be? Boring, probably. Think of at least one surprise to add into your story this will keep it exciting for your audience.

4) Your story may be a **Myth** or **Legend** or even a **Fairytale** about the animal you have been observing. Have you asked any adults like parents, grandparents or even a librarian if they know any stories about your animal? Perhaps you know a storyteller in your area, send them an email or speak with them. They will love that.

5) Remember to have **FUN**. It's not always easy; sometimes there is work before fun. What is fun for you? You might like facts, that can be fun or you might like singing. This reminds me you don't have to just tell your story. Perhaps it will be a dance or a song or even a piece of mime.

Have fun, I really look forward to seeing or hearing some of your stories.

Regards to you,
Matteo

Here are 3 simple examples

Written by Dineika Chandrananda

[1] “I observed a Crimson Rosella parrot who is a regular visitor to my garden. I named him Lukas although I’m not sure if it’s a boy or a girl. There are a lot of stories that contain parrots. But the one that stuck in my head is definitely the parrot called ‘Captain Flint’ who belonged to the pirate Long John Silver. They are both characters from the book *Treasure Island* by Robert Louis Stevenson. There is a nice story behind why that parrot is called Captain Flint, and I’m going to give you a summary....”

[2] “I love the Batman comics so obviously I chose to study bats in this project. Did you know that Melbourne used to be known as Batmania? Not because Bruce Wayne aka Batman lived here but because John Batman was the founder of Melbourne. I also found out that in European countries parents used to tell girls that if they went out after dark, bats would grab on to their hair and then the hair would need to be cut as the bats would not let go. Apparently this was to stop them from meeting their boyfriends when the parents didn’t approve. Factually, bats would not want to harm any of us. Bats are really cool. I want to tell you a story about a bat called Mat...”

[3] The animal I chose to study were the earthworms that I saw in my mother’s compost tray. I know a lot of people would say that worms are disgusting and boring but I don’t think so. When I was observing I tried to imagine myself as a worm, underground while big scary humans walked over it. BOOM BOOM BOOM their footsteps would fall. Would I feel frightened? Anxious? Or would it just be a part of the background noise worms would hear every day. Earthworms have no ears, but their bodies can sense the vibrations of animals moving nearby so yes they CAN hear in their own way. They don’t have eyes but they have light receptors, they don’t have lungs but they still breath, they even have a brain. Do you still think worms are boring?

Dear Students,

do not think telling a story is difficult or that you have to be perfect or that there are better storytellers than you. “If only the birds with the most beautiful voices sang in the forest, how quiet would it be?” We want to hear your story in your own voice, in your own words and the only one who can make that story heard is you! (Quote from Matteo)

Your WimBy-Team