

Story-telling

Aims

To help develop empathy with people from distant places and from different backgrounds by opening up their worlds through story. The story of the Greedy Hyena is an example of how Maasai elders transmit wisdom to the next generation.

To allow pupils an opportunity to explore the outcomes of actions and to consider issues of fairness and justice

You Will Need

To read and retell the story with its actions and questions until you have the main shape of the story committed to memory.

A belt and a box.



Instructions

Storytelling, like conversation, is an interactive social relationship, with eye contact creating a bond and the dynamic of the relationship between the teller and the audience influencing the language, pace and energy of the story. This direct relationship with the audience is more important than getting every minor detail of the story right by relying on notes, a few prompt words should be enough to hold the story's shape. Storytelling can become even more interactive through audience participation as in the example below. This can range from responding to questions, joining in with chants, actions or with percussion instruments to predicting what might happen next or creating and experimenting with alternative endings.

Lessons:

1. To be fair
2. To be grateful when you are helped.

The Story

A Greedy Hyena

A long time ago, a hyena was in the forest looking for something to eat.
(when narrating this bit you walk along and place a box in front which you'll bump into to show pupils what happens if you don't look where you are going)

There was a big hole.

(ask the pupils what they think happens)

Response: the hyena fell down the hole

(ask the pupils what happens when a hyena has been in the hole for a while)

Response: he got hungry and thirsty.

A cow came along.

(ask the pupils if the cow could help, listen to their views)

Demonstrate that by holding a belt, as a cow's tail, the cow helps the hyena out of the hole by pulling the hyena out.

(ask the pupils what people say when they are helped)

Response: thank you.

The hyena turned to the cow and said 'I'm going to eat you!'

(ask the pupils if that was a nice thing to say)

Later on a rabbit comes along and witnesses the two quarrelling.

(ask the pupils what they would do if they were the rabbit)

The rabbit did not want to be seen as a friend of either of the two, so decided to ask them to explain what happened.

The cow cried and said 'Uh! Uh! I helped the hyena out of the hole and he did not say thank you.'

The hyena said, 'Yes the cow helped me but I'm hungry, I must eat the cow.'

So the rabbit thought 'We must have justice here' and said 'before we decide – because I can see that both of you are right – could I see how the cow helped you out of the hole, then you can go ahead and eat the cow!'

Stupid hyena went ahead and got inside the hole again.

(ask the pupils if they would help)

The cow and the rabbit left the hyena there.

The cow and the rabbit went away.

As told by Rimas Tankile Morris

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