

Tell you what! A teacher's story is worth 1000 images

an interactive storytelling workshop

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<https://images.app.goo.gl/aD2e6kg9j3qzLHaVA>

Workshop outline

1. Introduction to storytelling
2. How to make your story better and suitable for use in ELT
3. Making your story better
4. Story share: some ideas
5. EXTRA: Write a very short story and share it
6. Story share: read it!

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Storytelling and me



There's a story everywhere



My sample story



Why storytelling in (language) class?



Why storytelling in language class?

From your example, pupils learn to:

interact

listen

tell

retell

improve

structure

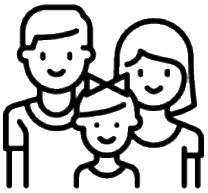
memorise



Purpose of storytelling in ELT

1. Introduce theme / topic of a lesson
2. Introduce the content of a listening / reading exercise
3. Introduce the genre of a reading text / listening fragment
4. Use story as a listening exercise
5. Prepare for speaking or writing task

How to improve your storytelling? 10 tips



1



2



3

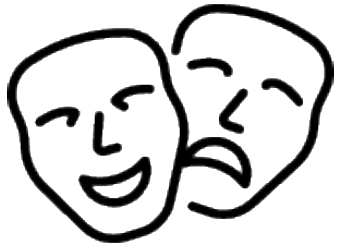


4



5

1. personal
2. curiosity
3. relevant
4. observe
5. visualise
6. drama
7. simple structure
8. strong end
9. passion
10. humour



6



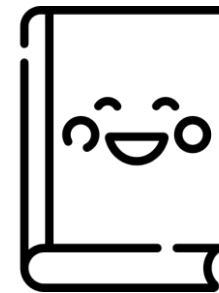
7



8



9



10

Simple structure



WHEN

WHERE

WHO

WHAT?! **Curiosity! Climax!**

BUT HOW?!



Relevance - Over to you



Make your story ready to use next week!

Choose at least three parameters to apply when retelling your story.

Example?

Practical improvement of your story

Circle at least one parameter per column to work with:

Purpose in ELT	Genre	Improvement (10 tips)
introduce theme / topic of a lesson, e.g. <i>difficult situations at work</i>	anecdote	personal
introduce the content of a listening* / reading exercise, e.g. <i>what can happen when two strangers meet</i>	joke	curiosity
introduce the genre of a reading text or listening* fragment, e.g. <i>anecdote of (horrible) holiday experience</i>	fairytale	relevance
use story as a listening* exercise, e.g. <i>find out what happened and who was to blame.</i>	news story / current affairs	observe
prepare for speaking or writing task, e.g. <i>a sample pitch, a shared folding story.</i>	(childhood) memory	visualise
	plot of book/film/youtube clip	drama
	other...	structure
		strong end
		enjoy
		humour

* listening also implies listening and watching



1



2



3



4



5



6



7



8



9



10

Relevance - example



Pitch a film I have recently watched and persuade pupils to go and watch it too by making them curious.

Next we watch a short film together, pupils read a well-structured sample review and write their own.

Practical improvement of your story

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use story as a listening* exercise, e.g. <i>find out what happened and who was to blame.</i>	news story / current affairs	observe
prepare for speaking or writing task, e.g. <i>a sample pitch, a shared folding story.</i>	(childhood) memory	visualise
	plot of book/film/youtube clip	drama
	other...	structure
		strong end
		enjoy
		humour

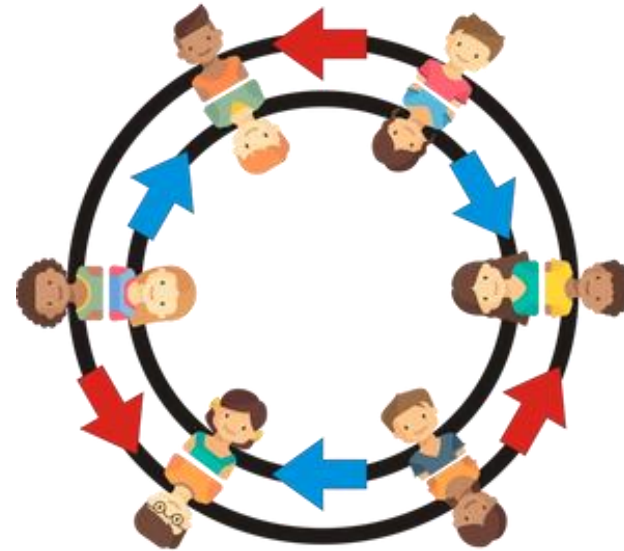
* listening also implies listening and watching



Story share

Inner – outer circle

Padlet / Nearpod Collaborate



EXTRA: A very short story in 141 characters



Tweet



Very Short Story
@VeryShortStory

The therapy seemed to be working until I realized I was the patient, not the doctor. It got worse when I figured out I was just the chair.

[Vertaal Tweet](#)

22:56 · 29-12-2016 · [Buffer](#)

358 Retweets **597** vind-ik-leuks





Very Short Story
@VeryShortStory

I bought a jaguar today. Not a car, an ACTUAL jaguar. I figure it will impress women more than a car. I got a two seat saddle for it.

[Vertaal Tweet](#)

17:00 · 04-05-2017 · [Khoros](#)

217 Retweets **482** vind-ik-leuks



A very short story in 141 characters



I once had an idea for decoration.
Chupa Chups joined in on the plan and
sent us a big box in a van. We had
many extra reasons for celebration.

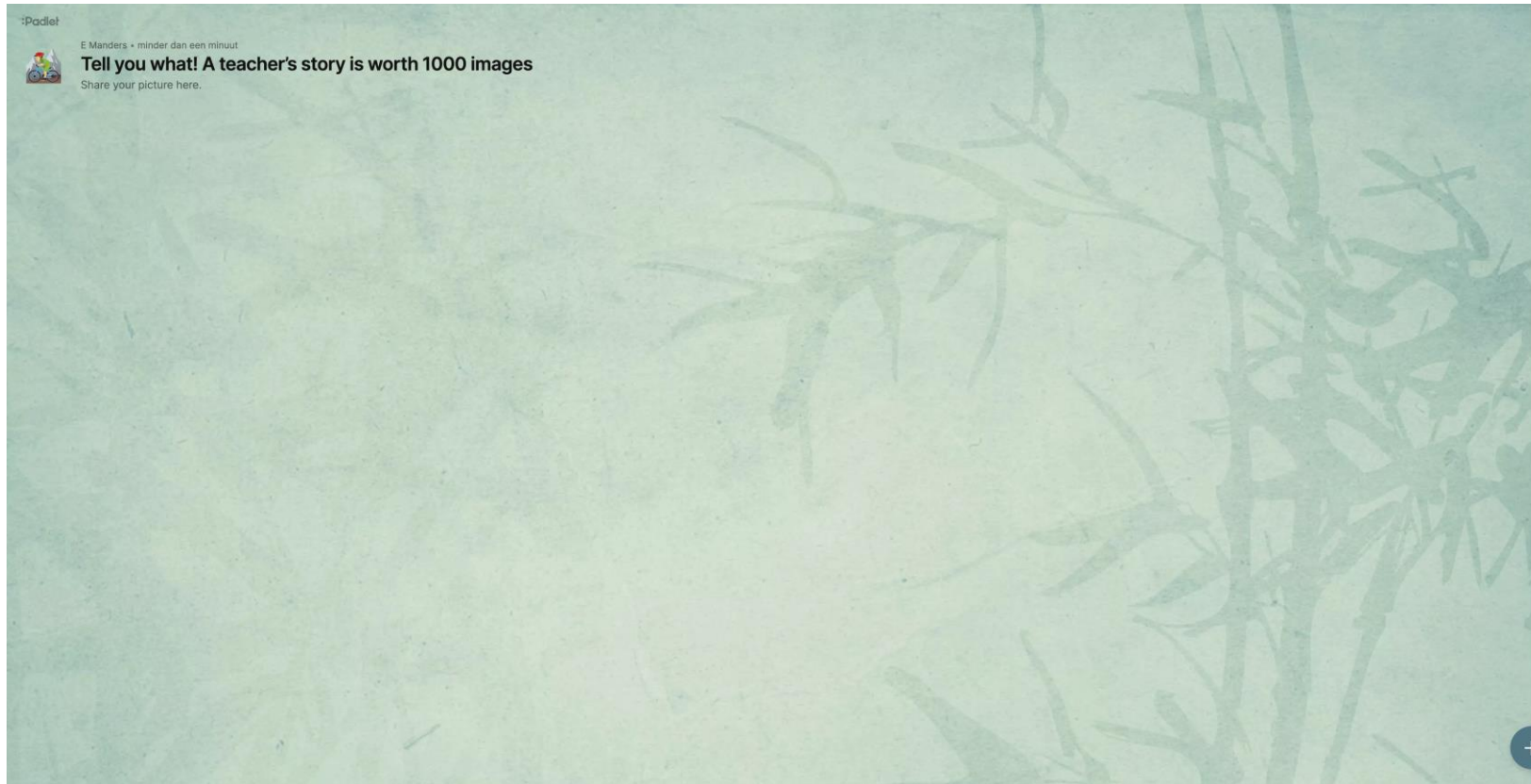
A very short story – over to you

Write your story down in max. 141 characters.

Make it relevant for your learners!

Story share

Share it together with your photo on [padletlink](#)



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Conclusion?

Tell you what! A teacher's story
is worth 1000 images

Share your story in class!
And enjoy yourself!

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More ideas

Some practical ideas to try out with your students

Inner outer circle

Students practise their stories by telling and retelling them to new classmates to memorise all the details and discover what version of their story works best. After several rounds they have repeated words and phrases a few times and have also worked out the best structure of their story.

Shared story

Pupils each throw one story cube and build a story together inspired by the images on their own dice. One student starts and each in turn adds one sentence. Can be done using a specific genre like fairytale.

Digital version on <http://foldingstory.com>

Very short story

Use Twitter to have pupils write very short stories in one or two lines. Use examples from @VeryShortStory to inspire them. Or have them write a 'VeryShortReview' on one of this person's tweeted stories. Use word count since Twitter now allows longer tweets than 141 characters!

CLIL

When teaching CLIL or content-based learning, use (well known) stories to explain subjects in a simple way like The Very Hungry Caterpillar or use a metaphor like soldiers defending your body against bacterial attacks by the enemy, building defence walls (repairing wounds), etc.

Visualise and present

Ask your learners to make a story using e.g. LEGO, a mindmap or a moodboard with photos. This way they think of a story to tell or information to share in a more holistic way. Next, they can use the visual information to support their presentation.

Useful links

- <https://www.nytimes.com/guides/smarterliving/how-to-tell-a-good-story>
- Podcast The Moth / Echt gebeurd (real life stories)
- Twitter: @veryshortstory
- Online tools: storybird.com
- <https://www.storyboardthat.com/>
- for story writing and inspiration: <https://www.inklestudios.com/inklewriter/> (tool to write interactive tales) and <http://foldingstory.com/> (group storytelling game)

Useful reading

This workshop was inspired by Jamie Keddie's work and stories. Find out more about his work on <http://jamiekeddie.com/>

If you would like to use stories in your classroom, use this elaborate book:

Heathfield, D. (2017) Storytelling With Our Students: Techniques for telling tales from around the world, DELTA Publishing Teacher Development Series ISBN 978 1 905085 87 3

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