

Podcast on Storytelling – Part One



Shalom & Hi everyone -welcome to the UnitEd-Herzog Podcast!

We assume you have familiarity with educational ideas such as Collaborative learning, Jigsaw method, Self-directed learning, and Active learning. Sometimes these these methods and techniques seem a little bit vague

UnitEd-Herzog has prepared a series of short and focused podcasts on a number educational approaches. The podcasts are workshops for building lesson plans based on diverse, inviting, and engaging learning practices that encourage students to take an active and meaningful part in their learning. We've also prepared accompanying materials for you and your students that help improve their learning using these practices..

These practices may be adapted to any content and any age group.

So go ahead, take the material you've planned to teach, find a quiet place, put on your headphones, and join us



The butterfly effect is an expression in the Chaos Theory and, in short, claims that a butterfly flapping its wings on one side of the earth can move air particles that could cause a tornado on the other side of the earth. Sounds a little crazy right?

But did you know that the eruption of a volcano caused the creation of a new genre in the field of literature?

The year 1816 is also called the year without a summer. A volcano that erupted in Indonesia spread volcanic debris into the Earth's atmosphere that was distributed so widely it caused the earth's temperatures to drop significantly and took about five years to dissipate. Following the eruption of the volcano, the ecosystem of the areas adjacent to Indonesia changed completely and many agricultural areas were destroyed. There was massive migration in different parts of the world and irregular rainfalls than previously. In June of 1816, Shelley Mary and her partner visited poet Lord Byron in his castle in Geneva. Because it was very rainy and they could not go outside, Lord Byron suggested to his friends to hold a horror story writing contest. As part of this friendly competition, Shelley Mary wrote Frankenstein, which is considered the first of its kind in science fiction.

What is a story?

There is something in stories that arouses our imagination and curiosity, and attracts us. Stories are a significant component in our lives which we can also use in the teaching and learning processes we lead in the classroom.

In some way storytelling is the oldest method of learning. Stories connect nations, generations and people in general. Stories allow us to connect to the characters and learn from their journey. They convey meaningful messages, experiences and feelings about our emotional, intellectual and physical perspectives, through movement, voice and intonation.

Using storytelling in the classroom can promote a deep understanding of ideas and concepts and is a very meaningful way of involving students in creative and learning processes. The principles of storytelling can be used from different angles: using an existing story to stimulate a learning process, creating our own story to convey a message, or letting students create their own stories about an area of study we are currently focusing on. Of course, it is also possible to combine the approaches.

In this unit we chose to focus on the approach of using an existing story to encourage learning processes, so let's get going.



Are you here? Great! I suggest you sit in a place where you are comfortable to work, maybe put on headphones and prepare a tool for documenting the structure of the lesson: it can be a notebook, a sheet of paper, or a computer. I also suggest that you use the page we prepared for you to plan the lesson - Storytelling - an accompanying page for listening to the podcast. Storytelling-מלווה םך ףד להאזנה לפודקאסט .

There are four steps to building a lesson plan based on storytelling. I will explain each step and give you time to work while listening to pleasant music. If you feel you need more time, stop the recording, finish your work, and get back to us.




In the first stage, think about the topic you are going to teach and on which you want to work. Think about the main message you want to convey and explore with your students. Stories can help us attract the attention of the learners and arouse feelings, thoughts and especially curiosity in them. These, in turn, will encourage immense involvement in learning. I suggest that you think of a story that can connect to the main message and encourage thinking. You might not have an idea right away, so I suggest that you search in different sources, such as our textbooks or various books that we have learned from over the years. You can also find good stories in the news and news archives, Ted talks or other online lectures. You can also find great stories in podcasts. You can find any of these by simply searching the study topic or the message you want to tell online. This can lead to surprising results. Another source that can be surprising and engaging are novels, especially children's books and legends. Many good children's books hide excellent messages that could also be suitable for older readers. I have personally done this in workshops for adults and the results are amazing.

 **So go ahead. Take 3 minutes to look for a good story. If you need more time, feel free to stop the recording and continue after you've found one.**

**Have you found a good story?**

Great. Honestly, I'm a little upset that this is a podcast and you can't share the stories that you found. Now is the time to plan how you are going to present the story to the class. You can do it through individual reading or in pairs. It can be at the beginning of the lesson, or everyone should have read the story independently before coming to class. Another option is for you to tell the story and if that is what you choose to do, I suggest that you think carefully about the way you present the story: where are you going to read it from? How will you use correct intonation to keep your listeners captivated? Think of using visual means such as presentations, pictures, or objects.

 **So, take 3 minutes to think about how you are going to present the story to the class.**
You have 3 minutes.



After thinking about the way we present the story, we now need to think about the students' activities. We suggest that you use the tool we created called "Storytelling from a Personal Perspective," which allows the students to analyze the characters in the story, the places mentioned and the objects brought up with the help of a table. Of course, you can adjust the criteria according to the goals you want the students to focus on. At the end of the table you can add additional questions for further discussion, for example: suggest your own name for the story, write a different ending, ask one of the characters a question. Work with the tool can be done individually, in pairs or in groups.

You can use other tools of course, but it is important to prepare orientation questions for the students, so that they can process the insights from the story by themselves.

 **I suggest that you take 3 minutes to plan how the students are going to process the story they are exposed to.**



We are almost at the end. After choosing a story and deciding how to present it and how the students will process it, I suggest you think about how to conclude this process. How are the students going to present their products? Would you like to have a class discussion? Maybe you want them to present the insights in two or three small groups in class? Or is there a way of organizing a presentation of products? Think about the processing and summarizing process.

 **I suggest you take 3 minutes to plan this section.**



That's it.

We've completed this process and you have a lesson plan based on storytelling. As I said at the beginning of the podcast, storytelling is a whole world, and we could not deal with all possible aspects. I suggest that you explore ways of encouraging your students to be storytellers. You are of course welcome to continue developing more lessons.



We hope you found this podcast to be helpful. Don't forget to also visit the UnitEd and Herzog College websites. There you will find additional materials about the practice and other useful resources for future lessons, inspiration, and enrichment. Good luck!

You can also listen to the podcast here:

