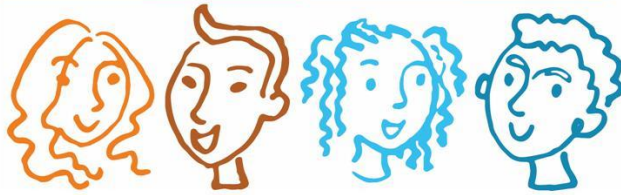


**storytelling schools**

literacy • oracy • creativity

**newsletter**



**autumn 2019**

Greetings from Storytelling Schools, hailing from our new office in Woodmancote, Gloucestershire where the leaves are just turning as autumn begins. In this newsletter we offer you stories, resources and ideas to plan your teaching plus a few updates about our work.

## **IN THIS ISSUE:**

**TWO STORIES FOR TELLING WITH YOUR CLASS**

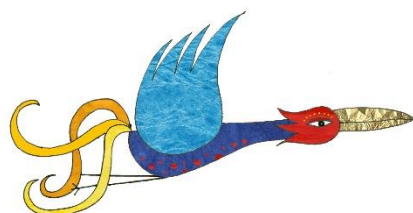
**3 RIDDLES TO GET YOUR CHILDREN - TALKING & THINKING**

**FREE RESOURCES**

**NEWS FROM MALTA: Skejjel Rakkontaturi**

**TRAINING EVENTS**

**IN OTHER NEWS ...**



## TWO STORIES FOR TELLING WITH YOUR CLASS

Are you feeling a little daunted by the year ahead? Here's a story about looking on the bright side from our [147 Stories Collection](#).

### Looking on the Bright Side

Once there was a spate of burglaries in Nasreddin's street, so Nasreddin went to bed with a bow and arrow next to his bed, just in case.

One night a noise in the garden disturbed him. He jumped up with his bow and arrow in his hand and looked out of the window. In the garden was a white shape. He couldn't quite see what it was but, just in case it was the burglar, he took a shot at it with his bow and it disappeared. Then he went back to sleep.

The next morning Nasreddin got up and went out into the garden to see if there was any sign of the burglar. There in the mud, under the washing line, he saw his white nightshirt pinned to the ground with his arrow. He picked them up and started to laugh.

His wife looked out from the window and saw her husband holding his torn gown and the arrow.

"What are you laughing for, you stupid old fool?" she called.

"You've torn your nightgown and it's covered in mud."

"But wife," he said, grinning from ear to ear, "I'm so fortunate. This is such good luck!"

"Why's that?" she asked, curious.

"I'm lucky to have escaped with my life. Imagine what would have happened if I'd been in the nightshirt at the time!"



*Listen to Chris telling the story*



### The Power of Stories

Once there was a woman who lived in a house with her father, her husband and her son.

Every day these three men would tell her to do this, do that, do that, do this, and usually she would do it in sullen silence without ever telling them what she thought.

She kept it all bottled up inside.

One day she went for a walk and came across a ruined cottage without a roof, with just the four walls standing. First, she turned to the north wall and started to shout at it, talking about her father, about all the things he had done, all the things he had said and how she had felt about them but had never said. The power of her words was such that the wall crumbled to the ground.

Then she turned to the east wall and started telling it all about her husband, about all the things he had said, how she felt and so on and so on. The power of her words reduced the wall to rubble.

Then she turned to the south wall and started telling it about her son, about all the things he had said to her in his life and how it had made her feel, and how she had never once said anything. Again, the power of her words was so great, the wall collapsed into a pile of bricks.

Finally, she turned to the east wall and started to tell it all about herself, about all the things she had never said, all the things she wished for and how she felt about everything. The force of her words collapsed this final wall.

Then she turned around and headed home.  
"I feel much better now," she thought.



*Listen to Chris telling the story*

**Riddle:** What begins with a C, ends with a C and has an O in the middle?

**Clue:** look into the sky at night

**Answer:** the moon

**Riddle:** The beginning of eternity, the end of time and space, the start of every ending and the end of every race.

**Clue:** It's eeezy

**Answer:** the letter E

**Riddle:** A man pushes a car along a road. He comes to a hotel and says, "Oh no, I have no money. What is happening?"

**Clue:** only take questions which have a yes and no answer. String it out to develop inquisitiveness.

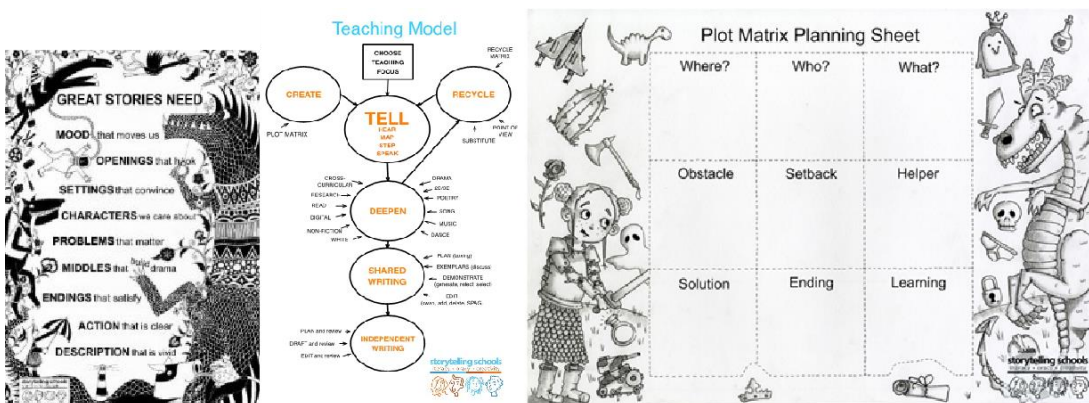
**Answer:** Playing Monopoly

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# FREE RESOURCES

We have created a set of FREE visual resources for use in teacher induction and teacher training including:

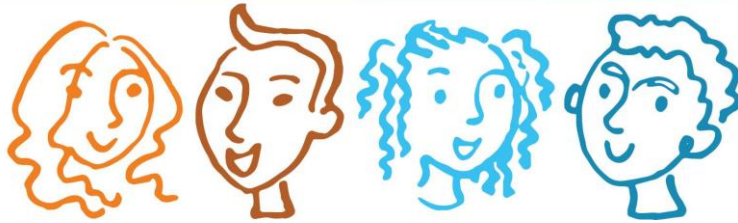
- ["What Great Stories Need"](#) poster for your classroom. Download [the colouring in version of "What Great Stories Need"](#).
- [Plot Matrix Poster](#) for your classroom. The plot matrix is our one stop shop for storymaking and story analysis. Download the colouring version [Plot Matrix Colouring Sheet](#) and a planning version [Plot Matrix Planning Sheet](#) where the student can fill in the grid with their own ideas.
- ["Teaching Model"](#) poster for your literacy planning, setting out the main elements of the storytelling schools method on one page. [Also available in black and white.](#)
- [Independent Writing Guide](#) to remind students of the steps to follow when planning, drafting and editing their own stories. [Also available in black and white.](#)



## NEWS FROM MALTA

# skejjel rakkontaturi

litteriżmu • taħdit • kreattivitàà



We are in the process of forming "Skejjel Rakkontaturi" - the Maltese Branch of Storytelling Schools, to be located within the dynamic National Literacy Agency. Last year, together, we ran a pilot programme training 9 primary schools across the islands in the Storytelling Schools approach. This year the programme will expand to another dozen or so schools including two middle schools. We are training a group of Maltese literacy trainers to sustain the programme in the long term.

The NLA has adopted our approach as a creative, skill-focussed, learning-by-doing approach to education as they move away from more traditional methods to more effective modern approaches. It will provide us with invaluable learning about the management of change in a national educational system. One distinctive feature of the Maltese situation is the bilingual policy of the government. The programme will be trialled in both English and Maltese and we plan to produce a full set of resources in Maltese.



[Click here](#) to see some images from Chris Smith and Kate Barron's recent visit.

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## TRAINING EVENTS



### **Gloucestershire Taster Event**

**November 6 2019, Stroud**

We are offering a 2 hour introduction to our method at the beautiful Museum in the Park in Stroud, as part of the Stroud Literacy Festival. Suitable for those new to the approach and for induction of new teachers. [Click here to learn more or book.](#)

### **Weaving with Words**

We are delighted to be cooperating with St. John's CE Primary School in Salford, as part of their oracy and storytelling partnership with SHINE. Together we ran an exciting conference called Weaving with Words which was well attended by teachers from the area.

### **Storytelling Day in Birmingham.**

**October 25th 2019**

High Meadow Infants School in the Coleshill area of Birmingham are hosting a Storytelling Schools Training day on October 25th. If you would like to join contact [admin2569@welearn365.com](mailto:admin2569@welearn365.com)

## Free Training!

We know how tight school budgets are right now and money for training is hard to find. One way to receive our training free of charge is to organise and recruit for a training day at your school. Cover the cost by charging the various participating schools and your staff can receive the training for free. Let us know if you'd like to find out more.

## International Summer Schools - 2020

We are planning another International Summer School at the end of August 2020 (24-29 August). Venue in the UK to be decided shortly. The week will provide a solid introduction for anyone wishing to integrate our approach into their teaching practice. Overseas visitors are most welcome. If you would like to be kept informed about the event please let us know by emailing us at: [enquiries@storytellingschools.com](mailto:enquiries@storytellingschools.com) .





## IN OTHER NEWS...

### Mayflower Tops Tower Hamlets Literacy Charts

Our flagship school in London, Mayflower Primary in Tower Hamlets, graded as outstanding by OFSTED, has now topped the literacy charts for Tower Hamlets achieving top results. The school has shown systematic and progressive improvement since adopting the method seven years ago.

### Parliamentary Oracy Consultation

Storytelling Schools was pleased to make a presentation to the Oracy All Party Parliamentary Enquiry, presenting evidence on the importance of integrating oracy into education and the various benefits of the storytelling approach. Let's hope for more formal backing to oracy learning by the government...

### Science through Stories

Our prolific science trainer, Jules Pottle, has created a delightful new storybook for the teaching of evolution to young children called the Molliebird ([click for details](#)) as well as a couple more books on teaching science using story, entitled Science Fiction, Science Fact ([click for details](#)). Both are fine resources to accompany our own [Science through Stories](#) collection.

