

Topic: Storytelling

Let's get started . . . Draw a picture of a character in a children's story. Talk about the character with a partner.

Story: *Once upon a time, in the city of London, two baby boys were born. One boy, named Tom, had a very poor family and his father was a thief. The other boy, named Ed, had a rich family and his father was the king of England. One day, Tom and Ed met. They both wanted a change in their lives. They put on each other's clothes and changed places. Suddenly Tom began living Ed's life as the prince of England and Prince Ed began living Tom's life, as a poor boy.*



This is the start of a story called The Prince and the Pauper, by Mark Twain. It is fiction - the characters are fictional and the story is not real. They are imaginary. A personal story about your life is real. It is non-fiction. Any story usually explains who, what, where, when, how, and why.



In pairs, tell some of your personal stories:

Try to complete one or more of these sentences with information about your life. Give detail if you can.

When I was a child . . .

After I became an adult . . .

When I first came to the U.S. . .

Last year, I . . .

This year, I

I was sad when . . .

I was happy when . . .

Small Group Activity: Story Chain

Students form a circle of 6 people. The first person begins to tell an imaginary story by saying, "Once upon a time, there was _____." Each person adds one sentence to continue the story. The last person in the group must complete the story. Play as many times as you want.



Discussion Questions - talk in pairs or small groups. Change groups from time to time.

What are some stories that were important to your childhood or are important to you as an adult? Why are they important? Do you (or will you) tell these stories to your children? Why or why not?

Are you more comfortable telling a story orally, or telling a story in writing? Why?

What are some of your favorite books or movies? Do you prefer fiction or non-fiction? Why?

Do you think stories should have happy endings? Why or why not?



Most people who grew up in the U.S. know the story of "The Boy Who Cried Wolf". This story has a lesson in it. If anyone knows this story, please tell it. What is the lesson in the story?

What are some stories that everyone from your native culture knows? What do they mean to you or to others? Draw a picture to help tell the story if you wish.

Extra Challenge - work in pairs, then share with the whole group

How would continue the story of The Prince and the Pauper? How would the story end? Compare Tom and Edward's childhoods. How would they be the same and different? How would changing places affect them? How would you feel if you were Tom or Ed?

Vocabulary: character, 'once upon a time', prince, pauper, thief, king, fiction, imaginary, non-fiction, "from time to time", wolf, fairy tale, 'how would', affect, orally

Keep talking about it this week: Ask friends to tell you a story they like - fiction, non-fiction, a personal story, or a movie or a book. Practice telling a story and then share it with your Talk Time class.

More on The Prince and the Pauper - <http://www.cliffsnotes.com/WileyCDA/LitNote/The-Prince-and-the-Pauper.id-149.html>