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Workshop: Storytelling for a sustainable future

We all know stories that are corner stones for our worldviews and identities. Through stories, it is possible to bond, have fun, reflect ethical questions and create alternative futures. But what kind of stories do we need to educate for a sustainable future? In this workshop we discuss the possibilities of storytelling in environmental education, share stories, and – perhaps – even create some new stories.

Workshop tasks

Task 1. Ingredients of a powerful story

Take a pen and paper and think for a while about such stories that have made a lasting impression on you. Make a list of characteristics of a powerful story.

Task 2. Fast Story

Write a fast story with these key words and template.

Please use at least three of these words in your story:

beach - bird - carpooling - carrot - climate crisis - consumer - environment - eutrofication - farmer - flower - forest - fox - frog - law - moss - mouse - nature - outdoors - prime minister - prince - princess - public transport - rabbit - rain - recycling bin - responsible - school - soap - squirrel - stone - tax - tree - vegetarian - wise - witch – wizard

Write an improvised story together using this template:

Once upon a time...

Every day...

Until one day...

Because of this... Since... Next... [This part can be repeated several times - as many as you need!]

Finally...

After that...

Task 3. Ideas for stories that we need in environmental education

Brainstorm for a while and create a list of ideas of topics that would need good stories to be benefitted in environmental education.

Tips for further reading

Alida Gersie, Anthony Nanson & Edward Schieffelin (2014). Storytelling for a greener world: Environment, community and story-based learning. Hawthorn Press.