



SNAPSHOT

Lessons that are well pitched use imaginative teaching strategies. I'd never tried to make story-telling part of my lesson planning. But how can we integrate engaging strategies into our lesson plans

to hold our students' attention while also supporting their learning? Having a clear rationale to work with is essential, and it can make all the difference with lesson planning and delivery in the classroom.

Robin Williams as Mr Keating in the film Dead Poets Society



Just when you think you know something, you have to look at it in another way. Even though it may seem silly or wrong, you must try.

Grabbing attention

Every teacher must consider how they can secure students' attention in class. Stories will help gain your students' attention at the start of a term and throughout all the lessons you will be together. They build relationships that are exciting and meaningful and you can use them to lure students into learning.



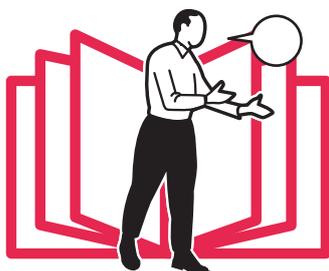
The curricular rationale

It's essential to have a clear rationale about how the story you want to tell will be used in class and how it links to your lesson content. When using storytelling in your classroom, make sure you ask yourself these questions:

- *Do your lesson plans incorporate links to real-life experiences or examples?*
- *If so, do the links then feed into the resources you intend to use in the classroom?*
- *Is there a strong basis for planning? If so, how could storytelling be built into the initial lesson structure?*
- *If the scheme of learning is written by another teacher, how could you adapt the plans to suit your own personal experiences and the stories you have to tell?*

Story telling and literacy

If you can embed storytelling techniques into your lesson planning and delivery, then you are also promoting a love of reading, speaking and listening in the classroom. Reading enjoyment is connected to behaviour and motivation, so it's important to engage your students in the magic of stories.



Our inner stories

We all tell stories to ourselves, inside our heads. One of these stories controls and shapes our life. And the more you tell it, the more you become it. So be careful that your teaching encourages positive inner stories in your students.

