

## Objective

Like all activities in the Tell the Story module, this activity supports students to bridge the gap between source material and the creative expression of a story.

This activity specifically explores **story structure**.

## Activity summary

This activity will last 1 or 2 sessions

Students use the method of the hero's journey to help them to tell their own story. The method of the hero's journey is described in the accompanying PDF entitled 'Reader – Storytelling Centre Amsterdam'.

## Pre-activity preparation

### Resources

- Three worksheets saved alongside this document, labelled:
  - Worksheet 1 – the journey template
  - Worksheet 2 – the hero and the lesson template
  - Worksheet 3 – helpers and opponents template
- Pencils, erasers, markers

## Deliverer preparation

Read through the guidance on 'the hero's journey' on the accompanying reader from the storytelling centre, Amsterdam.

Look carefully at the three worksheets used in this lesson in advance; as these will form the main content of the lesson.

## Student preparation

It could be useful for students to complete a find the story activity, such as the 'tree of life' activity (from the find the story area on the website) in advance of this activity. This will prepare them to fill in the worksheets effectively.

If they haven't completed any activity, you could ask students to bring a story about themselves to the class.

## Running the activity

### Step 1 – Storytelling

10 – 15 minutes

Start by asking one of the students to tell the story of 'Little red riding hood' (or another story all children know). Use this to explain the story structure – as described in the reader from the storytelling centre, Amsterdam.

## Step 2

120 minutes

Students fill in the three worksheets about a personal experience.

Each worksheet is a 'card'; asking students to They choose a situation that has had a lot of impact on them and they use the cards to reflect on that situation. They write this down on their cards.

Each card is highly scaffolded, structuring the way students communicate their story.

'The journey' worksheets take students through the structure of a hero's journey – and ask students to adapt their anecdote to fit these categories.

'The hero and the lesson' and 'helpers and opponents' worksheets act like character profile cards; encouraging students to think more deeply about the people that contributed to the personal story they want to tell.



**The beginning**

When did your story begin?

Where were you?

Who was there?

How was the atmosphere?



**The Hero (that's you!)**

What is your gender?

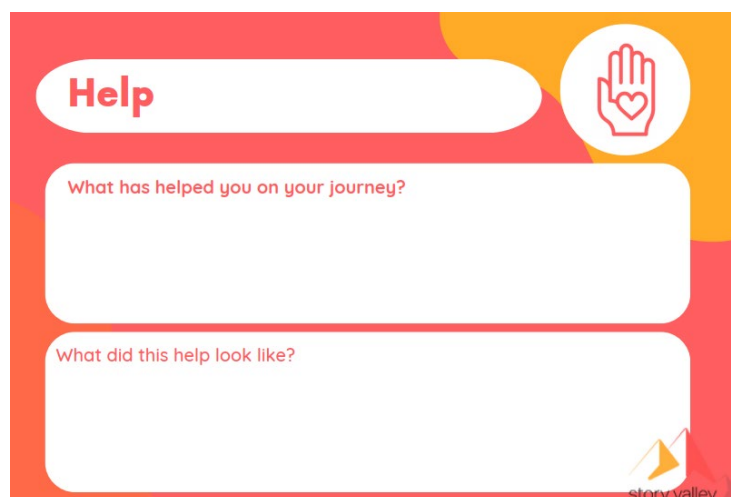
Where were you born, lived and do you live now?

Describe your three main external characteristics

Describe your three main inner characteristics

what are dreams?

Who do you love?



**Help**

What has helped you on your journey?

What did this help look like?

<b>Support</b> Students need guidance in this part to help them reflect on the situation. Ideally there would be more than one teacher present, to help the students.	<b>Extension</b> Ask questions like: Who was present? How did people help you in that situation? Was there something else that helped you (stories you've read, movies you've seen)? What held you back? Which thoughts went through your mind (I can't do it, I'm not good enough etc)? Who held you back?
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### Step 3 – evaluating the activity

15 minutes

Near the end of the activity, the teacher invites all the students to share their experience.

Ask questions like: How did you like to do this activity? What did you find hard? What did you find easy? Who would like to share the lesson they learned?

### Success criteria

Things to look for to ensure this activity has been run successfully include:

- A small group so that students can focus on the activity.
- Enough teachers to help students (one teacher on 5 or 6 students).
- Making sure students understand the templates and know how they can use it.
- If they have completed the 'tree of life activity' beforehand, students see the link between this activity and their hero's journey
- Give students confidence that everyone has stories and that they matter.