

Passing on Stories

ACTIVITIES:

1.

Discuss scary stories and what kinds of stories they know. If you can tell a few scary stories that have happened to you all the better!

For extra stories from Lancashire, old and new, share the short film, “Gathered Voices of Lancashire” (see link below).

2.

Story Carousel: Telling their own scary stories/ghost stories.

How to: Children get into pairs, and the pairs make a large circle sitting on chairs facing their partner, one facing the center of the circle and the other facing outward, creating an inner and outer circle of chairs.

Everyone sitting on the inner circle is an “A” and those in the outer circle a “B”.

A’s are told they will have 3 minutes (or whatever works for the group) to tell their partner a scary story (It could be one they’ve heard or a “It was scary when...” kind of story. B’s are told they must listen carefully. They don’t need to remember every word, just listen and take in what happens. They then swap roles, and B tells a story to A.

Explain that they will now pass on the story they have HEARD to a new partner. If they can’t remember details, they are free to add new details and that if the person said it happened to them you can choose to retell it as if it happened to you, or not. (This will very much depend on the age and nature of the children involved.)

‘A’s are now told to remain seated and not move. ‘B’s are told to move one chair round the circle clockwise so that everyone is facing a new partner. They now repeat the process telling the new partner the story they HEARD FROM THEIR OLD PARTNER. Make it clear that they are free to make up new bits to replace anything they can’t remember so that the story still makes sense.

This can be repeated another round or not and some stories can be told back to the whole class by the last teller.

3.

How stories get passed on:

Discuss as a class what happens when stories get passed on and consider that many of the old folktales have been passed down orally for centuries and keep changing as they go.

SUBJECTS: English: Speaking and Listening / History

LINK TO:

15-minute film: "Gathered Voices of Lancashire", created by Jacqueline Harris and Graham Kay of "Fully Formed Films":

<https://www.storywheel.co.uk/gathered-voices-of-lancashire>