

Circle Stories

Circle stories involve creating a progressive, cumulative story by following a storyline and making a logical addition to the previous speaker's contribution. The teacher usually starts a story by describing a setting and introducing a character. A student sitting next to the teacher will add to the story before passing it on to the next person, and so on. This can be done in a whole class context or with small groups. The teacher can encourage the pupils to refer to the living charts to support their storytelling.

Creating a story in this way demands active listening and a knowledge of narrative structure.

Circle story starters:

- *Once, long ago in a small country town Jessie and Tom were hiding in the shed near the farmhouse....*
- *Once upon a time there were three little pigs, who went away to seek their fortune*
- *Long ago in a land far away there was a small village and in the village there was a little cottage.*
- *Long ago above the blue sea, above the colourful houses, in the white clouds lived a beautiful tooth fairy called Emma.*
- *One day Mary was closing up her shop. She found a baby girl in a cot with a note attached.*
- *There was once two teenagers called Zeke and Luther. They were brothers and they both had the same dream.*