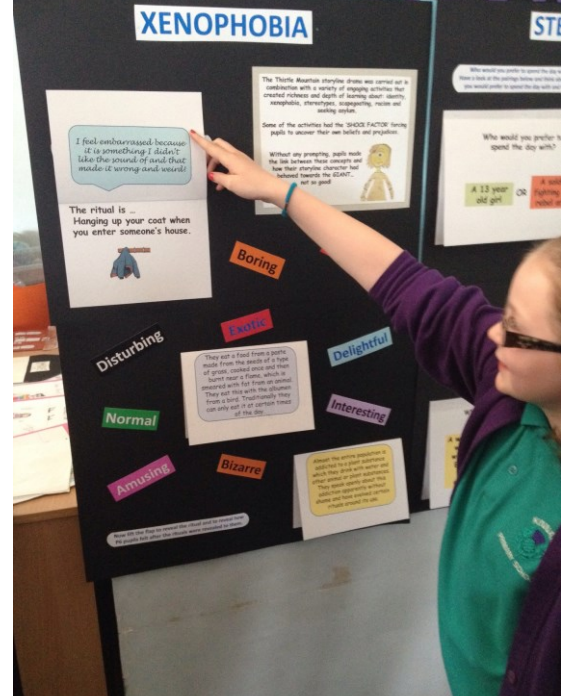


## May 2014

# Visiting Storyline Scotland

There we are, Steve Bell and Sallie Harkness, Geert De Meyer and Sebastiaan Leenaert, overlooking Loch Lomond, the biggest lake of Scotland, from the Strathclyde University Club. The weather, of course, is rainy, the coffee is good, and so are the stories. With their Storyline Approach, Sallie and Steve have been all over the world, from Hong Kong to Bahrain. They talk about their methodology, full of energy, fantasy and drive, about how stories help to train nurses, teachers and even soldiers ...

Geert De Meyer and myself, Sebastiaan Leenaert, are teacher trainers at the University-college Arteveldehogeschool, Ghent, Belgium. Always on the lookout for inspiring ideas, we go to Glasgow to talk to the founders of Storyline. Steve and Sallie retired from Strathclyde University seventeen years ago, but their eyes still twinkle when they tell the story of *the Drovers* or *the Giant of Thistle Mountain*. We are eager and interested. These are ideas that work! We train future secondary school teachers, and Storyline might be just the approach that can bring creativity and real cross-curricular activities to the field. Besides our regular teaching job, we also set up [www.ezels-oor.be](http://www.ezels-oor.be) (ezelsoor means donkey-ear), bringing creative story-workshops to toddlers, primary and secondary pupils all over Flanders. We do this because we believe that stories work, and we feel Storyline strengthens us in our ideas. Storyline provides us with the theoretical background and gives our workshops more punch and structure.



Steve and Sallie make us meet all kind of people with all kinds of angles and approaches to *their* Storyline. We meet Monica Porciani, Associate Lecturer in Health & Wellbeing at Strathclyde University who speaks enthusiastically about Storyline in the teacher training programme. We meet Yasmin, a teacher to be, who shows us her Storyline in progress, about pirates, treasure and the quest for teamwork, communication and lots of adventure. We go to Kinnaird Primary School where children sing for us and tell us the Story of *Titanic* and, again, *the Giant of Thistle Mountain*. We're more convinced than ever, stories make things stick!

We look forward to the Storyline Conference, March 2015 in Glasgow, and to refining our teaching practice with everything we've learned!

Thanks Steve and Sallie!



Sebastiaan Leenaert  
Geert De Meyer  
Jorge De winter

Contact: 0496 20 20 95  
[www.ezels-oor.be](http://www.ezels-oor.be)

