

Erasmus+ Training for teachers of English at Strathclyde University Glasgow August 2015



The Storyline Method A helpful strategy for heterogeneous learner groups in the foreign language classroom

- What are your experiences in the foreign language classroom?
- Are your learners still motivated and actively involved?
- Do they get tasks that lead to constructing individual language?
- Does your teaching offer enough possibilities for differentiated work?
- Do your learners reach the national standards in all skills?

Why not try out an alternative teaching method?



For centuries the structure of a story has been used to educate and inform. In Scotland in the 70's and 80's a Storyline strategy was introduced into primary schools by a tutor team around Steve Bell based at *Jordanhill College of Education* in Glasgow. Although this approach was originally designed to teach environmental studies the international Comenius project "***Creative Dialogues***" (2003-2006) could prove that it offers a successful task based opportunity for language development and is an ideal approach for teaching heterogeneous learner groups.

Storyline offers:

- a motivating context
- integration of the individual ideas and interests of the pupils,
- authentic usage of the target language,
- a wide variety of differentiation. The pupils' learning styles and abilities are not a hindrance but lead to a significant collaborative outcome.
- an opportunity for the pupils to become aware of their individual learning styles, and to develop their self-organisational skills as well as their own learning strategies. (Life-long learning)

The motivation of the Storyline strategy arises from the ownership and involvement of the learners, who find themselves as participants within the story. The teacher has the plan or line, the pupils are the creators of the detail and the content of the story .

While being involved in the storyline the participants of our courses will:

- make their own experiences by taking all the important steps through a story,
- collect teaching material and take home a full range of teaching ideas,
- learn and actively try to differentiate their tasks.
- discuss the evaluation of the learners' language outcomes.
- meet teachers of English from different European countries to compare teaching styles and much more
- enjoy an ideal way to improve their own language competence,
- discuss the advantages or disadvantages of this method for their learners.
- meet the inventors of this marvellous teaching strategy.

Course 1/2015: Storyline meets Storytelling

25th of July - 1st of August 2015 - Glasgow

Run by: Storyline Germany and lecturers of Strathclyde University

Let's get to know how to work with a book based Storyline

aimed at learners of English trying to reach the language level A1-B1.

BOOK-BASED STORYLINES have proven a popular choice for teachers who wish to find a motivating context which enables their students to develop the language skills of listening, talking, reading and writing apart from their textbooks.

Picture books are eminently suitable for students who study a foreign language because they find the illustrations useful as an aid to understanding. Using the storyline approach with the books opens the chance for a wide variety of additional story elements that provide opportunities to introduce and



practise specific skills required by the curriculum and help to use the target language in a meaningful way.

The approach helps slow learners to visualise their learning contents and to be able to understand in their individual pace as they can always look at the results and the many different task and products.

Cooperative learning is trained through the whole storyline.



Accommodation = 950€

(7 nights in ensuite room + half board)

Course fee = 500€

Course 2 /2015: Storyline working towards inclusion

1st – 8th of August 2015 – Glasgow

Run by: Storyline Germany and lecturers of Strathclyde University

Let's get to know how to use a Storyline especially aiming at the inclusion of the weak learners

When we talk about inclusive education in language teaching following buzz words come up:

differentiation – cooperative learning – individualisation – supporting the individual learning process



We believe that all these elements mentioned above are incorporated in a Storyline.

The participants of this course will experience how Storyline in language classrooms allows to deal with the different needs, dispositions and interests of our students – for example in the way a Storyline integrates the pre-knowledge and experience of our students.

The different sequences of a Storyline provide a structure but are flexible and open to the learners' questions, their ideas and many individual learning paths. The freezes are a real gold mine for individualised and differentiated tasks.



Accommodation = 950€
(7 nights in ensuite room + half board)
Course fee = 500€



If you are interested, please send us a note and we can provide you with additional material.

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