

Erasmus+ project „The Children of Sheherazade“

Denmark – Questionnaire for Pupils

School: Øster Åby Friskole, Denmark

Facilitator (Storyteller): Maria Junghans

1. You were part of a storytelling project called ‘The Children of Sheherazade’ that started 3 years ago. At first you were told fairy tales. What do you think about that? What was it like for you?

- 1: I liked it when we listened to stories, when you told stories the first year and we could draw freely, but I also liked 2nd class, because then we had themes. I think it was good the first two years where we could just relax, nice and quiet class. It charges our batteries.
- 2: It is very interesting. Because if you are tired one day it is nice that you can just get out of school, and then we have storytelling, and you can just lie down and relax and listen to the story. It is relaxing because you tell the stories in a way that make us get into the details of the stories, rather than: “And that was how it was...”, and it is interesting and exciting because of the way you use your voice and your body, the way you tell, rather than someone standing completely still and tells something, that is rather boring.
- 3: Listening to stories is really cosy.
- 4: I like listening to stories, so it has been a good topic. It is nice to relax, for instance I like listening to audiobooks, I like when someone is telling a story to us. That is also why I like Morning Song then I sing along and then it is like, then they want to make it a bit longer and tell more. I just like listening to stories.
- 5: It is fun. I like to draw. I think some of the stories are a bit boring, but some are fun and interesting.

2a) How did you like listening to stories for 2 years and then making up stories yourself in the last year? Is it good? Is it fun? Is it important - and if so, why?

- 1: It was a bit difficult to get the hang of it, but now when we know what to do, then it is good. I have been thinking about what I could do, and what I could draw and then I had the idea to make a comic book. And it was cool to invent one’s own stories.
It was also good to make stories with the others. I haven’t been spending much time with the girls, but now that we did the story about the family traveling to many different countries, there we also a number of girls in the group, and I just find I got to be better friends with them.
Stories are important because if you for instance are told a story about a philosophy it can start your brain thinking.
- 2: It is good that we can decide what the story is about, and which drawings shall go into the story, and what the names of the characters should be, if we want her to be called Olga, her name will be Olga, if we want it to be Freja, it is Freja, and we can decide where they should go. That is really cool that we can decide it ourselves. It has been fun to make our own story.
It is not really important, but both yes and no. But maybe yes because if someone has been quarreling then you can fix it with a story.

- 3: The two first years were the most fun. Because then it was just storytelling and drawing. I don't know if storytelling is important.
- 4: Yes, it was fun. I was in a group with three of the other boys, and then one of them was the king, and then we arghh, and it was fun (he shows how they acted). The common story that we all made was great because I was part of it.
It is not really important, but I like it. It is not like math or something, it is not like: "You HAVE to do it" or "It is important that make the story NOW!" It is more like: "Would you like to make that story?" It is not pressure or enforced on us. It is nice and easy.
- 5: It has been fun. But we also disagreed a bit, and that is not so fun.
I don't know if it is important, but it is fun.

2b)When you listen to fairy tales, do you hear them or do you watch them like a film?

- 1: Like a movie.
- 2: I imagine it inside my head. If you say "She was very ugly" or "she was very beautiful", then I can imagine she was in brow rags and really dirty in her face, and if beautiful, then they are really pretty.
- 3: Sometimes I can imagine how it is in the story and see pictures inside my head.
- 4: Yes! I imagine a completely different world. If you say "Then the trold came out of the story" then I look out of the corner of my eye, and then I can see the landscape with a meadow and the horses and then all of a sudden a dark forest and the troll, because you say the troll comes and then the dragon comes flying past and then the knights of the guard comes running by, and then ... yeah
- 5: Sometimes I listen to the stories, and sometimes I imagine it

3. Is there a story or a hero/heroine that you particularly like? And if so, why?

- 1: No.
- 2: We have heard so many, so it is hard to remember them. I only remember my favorite, the first one we heard, the one with the golden apple, and the water, and she was sick.
- 3: No.
- 4: Yes! I like that Butterfly Swimmer girl (Yusra), because I like swimming, and I am already learning to swim butterfly. And because she swam with a boat in the water for days, and that must have been hard, that makes her tough, and she saved lives. Her swimming pool got bombed, and that is a shame. For instance if they shranked the school, I would be really sad because I really like school, or they bombed my house, then I would be really sad, but she still saved her life, so that is my favorite.
- 5: I like Flemming a lot, because he chills a lot. (Laughter)

4. Were there any stories you didn't like?

- 1: I didn't like the part of the story (Our story) with the nuclear bomb, and the hamburger. I have never heard anyone call their child a hamburger.
- 2: No
- 3: I don't know.
- 4: No not really
- 5: There was a bad idea, when Flemming got injured and had to go to hospital, then Frederikke took the television with her in the car, that doesn't work, because you need to plug it in, and there is no plug in the car. I think that is a bit weird. And she likes her television more than her kids, I think that is a bit shite

5. Could you imagine being friends with someone from a story? If yes, with whom and why?

- 1: I could imagine becoming friends with Helga. I can't really remember her, but she sounds really wild and magical.
- 2: Freja (from their story) because she sounds fun and she likes football and I like football sometimes, and she also visits the riding school, like me. .
- 3: I really don't know.
- 4: I could imagine becoming friends with Yusra, because we both like swimming.
- 5: ...

6. In fairy tales, animals, trees, everything is alive. There are also other worlds that you travel to, e.g. the sun, the moon, the fairy world. Do you think that's true?

- 1: Yes, I believe it is true. I believe it to be like that, but I don't have an explanation on how.
- 2: Yes, in the stories. You can travel in the stories. Like if you live in a completely normal city, and then you meet someone who puts you inside a time machine and you end up in Smurf Land, and then it is about your struggle to get out and back home.
- 3: No.
- 4: No, but we have people all over the world, then it had to be on another planet, but there is no oxygen on the other planets, so then it would have to be in a different galaxy, but it seems a bit unreal. But I can imagine it in my head.
- 5: No.

7. Would you recommend that schools include storytelling projects like ours in their normal school day?

- 1: It should be a part of the curriculum, because it gives you a break where you can relax and let your imagination run freely. I have read in the Children's Newspaper (Børnenes Avis) that many children want to learn more if the class is fun, and storytelling is not quite like being at school, but you can really let yourself get into it.
- 2: Yes, I think that is something we should try out. Because it is very exciting. And because we listen more in class. It has really helped me a lot. I listen to the stories and then when I have Danish or Math I listen more and learn more.
- 3: I really don't know.
(Interviewer: "...If we travelled back in time and you were about to start in 1st grade, would you then like storytelling to be part of what you were going to experience?)
Yes! If it was only storytelling and drawing. But if it was making the stories our selves, then no. I don't think it is fun making the stories, all those ideas. They are bad.
(all of them?)
Most of them. Almost all people are like that, they want it their way. It was better when we voted on if the ideas should be part of it or not.
- 4: Yes, because it is cool that the other countries Greece and Germany and France. I like to be part of an experiment. They could have had it in more counties in Denmark, so we could see if it was the same all over the county. And also just as part of school, because then we would have more storytelling, and that would be great.
- 5: Yes, I would. Because it is fun to listen to stories, and to draw and create stories..