 Why do we tell stories?

Resource 1

From the earliest of oral traditions to the vast platforms of digital communication, humans have always told stories to understand their world by sharing and interpreting experiences.

Stories are the tools through which knowledge is passed on in a social context. They are universal, bridging cultural, linguistic and age-related divides. Stories document history, personal narratives, political commentary and evolving cultural norms.

People build and communicate their relationships, cultures and identities through the stories that they tell. Stories are a means of entertainment, education, cultural preservation and instilling moral values.

Read the following quotes and make notes while you watch the video [“Why do we tell stories?”](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MB3jbRPX9Xw&feature=youtu.be) then create a mind map that explores the purpose and importance of storytelling.

“We tell ourselves stories in order to live.”

-- Joan Didion

“The reason for evil in the world is that people are not able to tell their stories.”

― C.G. Jung

“There's always room for a story that can transport people to another place.”

― J.K. Rowling

“But what are our stories if not the mirrors we hold up to our fears?”

― Wally Lamb

“Good fiction’s job is to comfort the disturbed and disturb the comfortable.”

― David Foster Wallace

“The opposite of silence quickly leads to narrative, and the sound of story is the dominant sound of our lives, from the small accounts of our day’s events to the vast incommunicable constructs of psychopaths.”

― Reynolds Price

“Our eventual fate will be the sum of the stories we told ourselves long enough.”

― Crystal Woods

“There have been great societies that did not use the wheel, but there have been no societies that did not tell stories.”

― Ursula K. Le Guin

“Imagination is the only weapon in the war against reality.”

― Lewis Carroll

“People think that stories are shaped by people. In fact, it's the other way around.”

― Terry Pratchett

“Narrative is international, transhistorical, transcultural: it is simply there, like life itself.”

-- Roland Barthes

“The all-informing process of narrative is the central function or instance of the human mind.”

-- Fredric Jameson

“Our very definition as human beings is very much bound up with the stories we tell about our own lives and the world in which we live.”

-- Peter Brooks

“A child’s need for stories is as fundamental as his need for food.”

-- Paul Auster