

NARRATIVE

INT. CLASSROOM - DAY

MR CRANNA is drawing in his sketchbook as STUDENT 1 runs in shocked and horrified, clutching their head.

STUDENT 1
Help! It's drawn blood!

Mr Cranna looks up from his sketch book.

MR CRANNA
What has?

STUDENT 1
Out there!

STUDENT 1 points O/S. MR CRANNA looks in the direction STUDENT 1 is pointing.

MR CRANNA
Where?

STUDENT 1
It flew down!

MR CRANNA
What flew down? From where? You're not making any sense.

STUDENT 1
Why not?

MR CRANNA
Because you haven't told me what's happened in a way I can understand. Your thoughts aren't organised and I can't make sense of them.

STUDENT 1
How do I make you understand?

MR CRANNA
Why don't you try telling me what happened in a narrative form?

SFX: record scratch. STUDENT 1 looks to camera, thoroughly confused.

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STUDENT 1

Er, what's narrative?

CLOSE ON MR CRANNA as he addresses camera.

MR CRANNA

Narrative is the way we organise thoughts and make sense of things that happen to us or to other people.

WIDE ON MR CRANNA.

STUDENT 1

Can you help me make what happened to me into a narrative?

MR CRANNA

Sure. Why don't you start by telling me where you were when this happened?

STUDENT 1

I was in the park.

MR CRANNA

Okay, So the narrative takes place in the park.

Mr Cranna draws a picture of Student 1 in the park. He blue tacks it on the wall behind him.

MR CRANNA

Got it! What where you doing in the park?

STUDENT 1

I was skipping with the skipping rope under the big gum tree.

MR CRANNA

Okay..

Mr Cranna draws a picture of Student 1 skipping with a rope under a big gum tree. He blue tacks the picture on the wall.

MR CRANNA

Okay, what happened next?

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STUDENT 1

Something hit me on the head. I was bleeding. It really hurt.

Mr Cranna draws a picture of Student 1 clutching their head and blue tacks it on the wall behind him.

MR CRANNA

How did you feel?

STUDENT 1

I was freaked out. It was such a shock. I didn't know what had hit me!

Mr Cranna draws a picture of Student 1 looking up at the tree in shock and blue tacks it on the wall behind him.

MR CRANNA

Hmm, did you hear anything before you were hit?

STUDENT 1

I heard a swooshing, wooshing, flapping sound. Then a squawk and smack! Something hit me on the skull!

MR CRANNA

Interesting...

Mr Cranna draws a picture of Student 1 hearing a swooshing flapping sound while skipping the rope. He blue tacks the picture on the wall behind him.

Mr Cranna looks at all the pictures on the wall and starts arranging them into order.

MR CRANNA

So you were in the park, skipping with a rope under the big gum tree. Then you...

He moves the picture of STUDENT 1 hearing the flapping sound to be third in the sequence.

MR CRANNA

...heard a swooshing, wooshing flapping sound and smack, something hit you on the head but we don't know what. It hurt, so you clutched your head and then you felt

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shocked because you didn't know what had hit you.

STUDENT 1

That's right!

MR CRANNA

I wonder what it was... When did this happen?

STUDENT 1

Today. At lunchtime.

MR CRANNA

Today, at lunch... what's special about today? (thinks) Well, it's spring... you were under a tree... you heard a flapping sound... oh I know!

Mr Cranna draws a picture of a magpie dive bombing STUDENT 1. He blue tacks it on the wall in between the picture of STUDENT 1 hearing the swooshing, and STUDENT 1 clutching their head.

MR CRANNA

You must've been pecked by a magpie! It's spring, which means its nesting season for magpies. They often swoop unsuspecting humans who they think are a threat to their babies. There must have been a magpie nest in the tree you were skipping underneath!

STUDENT 1

Wow, it's all making sense now!

MR CRANNA

Because you've organised your thoughts in a narrative form. You've made a story.

Mr Cranna admires his drawings.

MR CRANNA

If it's spring, someone else might get swooped by a magpie. We should put this narrative in the magazine.

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STUDENT 1

But don't narratives usually have a meaning? Or a moral?

MR CRANNA

Yes...

STUDENT 1

So I guess the moral of my narrative is don't forget to wear your zip tie hat during magpie season!

STUDENT 1 puts on a helmet covered in zip ties.

MR CRANNA

Excellent!

Mr Cranna looks at his drawings again.

MR CRANNA

This is good inspiration for my next comic. If it hadn't been a magpie that hit you, I wonder what it could have been...

Mr Cranna takes down the drawing of the divebombing magpie. They all start thinking...