

Intergenerational Storytelling Project



What is the Lifetime Stories Project?

Our programme aims to teach students the fundamental building-blocks of sharing personal stories, listening deeply to others and improving communication skills in order to create a deeper connection with friends and family across generations. We are often asked to tell our stories (and listen to other people's), but rarely are we given the tools to do so.

Beginning with sharing stories, we introduce techniques that slowly build each student's confidence and storytelling abilities through carefully curated and participatory exercises.

We move towards learning about empathy, compassion and asking the right questions, as these are essential skills to being a good listener and integral to their Lifetime Stories Project. Every student picks their 'Chosen Elder' and sets forth on a story-discovering journey, through their person's life through sharing photos, songs, meaningful objects and stories.

We return to your school to facilitate a final intergenerational session, bringing generations together, and cementing their connection over shared life experiences and personal stories.



Your Facilitators



Jenny Kossew



Michael Kossew

Michael's most treasured memories are from the stories his grandmother told from her life, which were a glimpse into another world and another time; "I wanted to be able to remember her stories and wisdom to be able to pass them down to my children", he says.

Through recording these stories and seeing the joy they brought to their family, Jenny and Michael devised the Lifetime Stories Project to share their passion for intergenerational storytelling and equip the youngest generation with the skills and curiosity to discover stories from another lifetime..

Michael Kossew is the founder of Natural Born Storytellers, which create fun and welcoming spaces for people to share true stories. With over 14 years of performance and facilitation experience; helping communities around the world tell their own stories. Michael's deep understanding of story structure and performance helps to bring this out in others.

Jenny Kossew is a teacher, entertainer, musician, sleep consultant and the founder of JOY, a charity bringing older and younger generations together through shared activities. With over 40 years experience working with children, schools and older generations, she feels that the connection young people have to their grandparents and elders is fundamental to their development.



Curriculum Links

Upper Key Stage 2

English/Public Speaking - Pupils' confidence, enjoyment and mastery of language should be extended through public speaking, performance and debate

PSHE - though key areas of Health & Wellbeing (H25), Relationships (R1, 32, 33) and Living in the Wider World (L6, 7, 8)

Key Stage 3

Spoken English - Our programmes incorporate public speaking skills, sharing stories and using role, intonation, tone, volume, mood, silence, stillness and action to add impact

PSHE - Health & Wellbeing (H1), Relationships (R15, 16) and Living in the Wider World (L1).

What Does the Project Look Like?

Chapter 1: True Storytelling Workshop; How to Bring Your Stories to Life.

Chapter 2: Active Listening, Being Present and Asking Story-Sparking Questions.

Chapter 3: The Lifetime Stories Project; Students have a guided conversation with their Chosen Elder, equipped with a workbook that guides their story-exploring journey.

Chapter 4: Intergenerational Session - We return to school to facilitate a fun intergenerational session, creating a Story Board (with photos and written stories) & live storytelling performances.

We can accommodate your timetable & needs.

Looking forward to connecting.

What you can Expect

- Practical tools and techniques that students can use when sharing stories from their lives.
- Improved public speaking and confidence.
- Connecting to their family through developing active listening and empathy skills.
- Working together with their peers.

What People Are Saying

"Your programme made our students stop & forget about the cool and technological world around them and delve into themselves for a minute. Brings together empathy, listening, respect for others, confidence and resilience.."
Nicole, Teacher at Immanuel College

"Our students gained insight into the art of storytelling, using words in spoken rather than written narrative. They loved exploring listening as well as speaking, developing verbal and non-verbal communication and having fun"
Alexis, Head of Immanuel College

"The only problem I had with the workshop is that I think there weren't enough sessions"
Student, Hendon School

"He has just been so attentive and listened so beautifully to my stories. We don't often discuss "old times"
Grandparent, Hendon School

"I usually thought that my grandma was just a normal grandma her whole life, so I forgot that she had an actual childhood where she did all fun stuff and naughty stuff"
Student, Noam School

"This project showed me the importance of teaching children the skills to communicate and interact with people of all ages and with people who have a wide range of interests that may differ from their own"
Jacyn, Teacher at Immanuel College

"I really liked it because when I asked my mum, she was laughing at remembering all those old memories because it takes a lot, lots of concentration and a great mind to remember stuff that happened around a decade ago."
Student, Harrow School

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