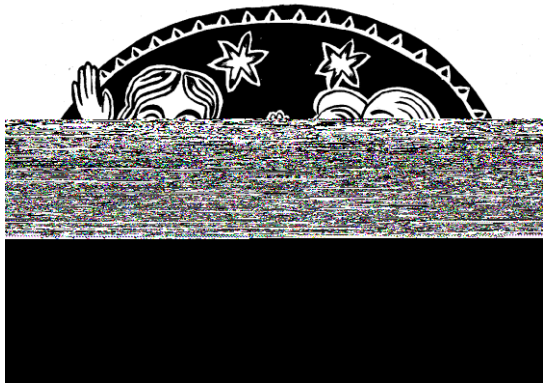
What's Your Story? Storytelling as an authentic tool for assessment in Initial Teacher Education

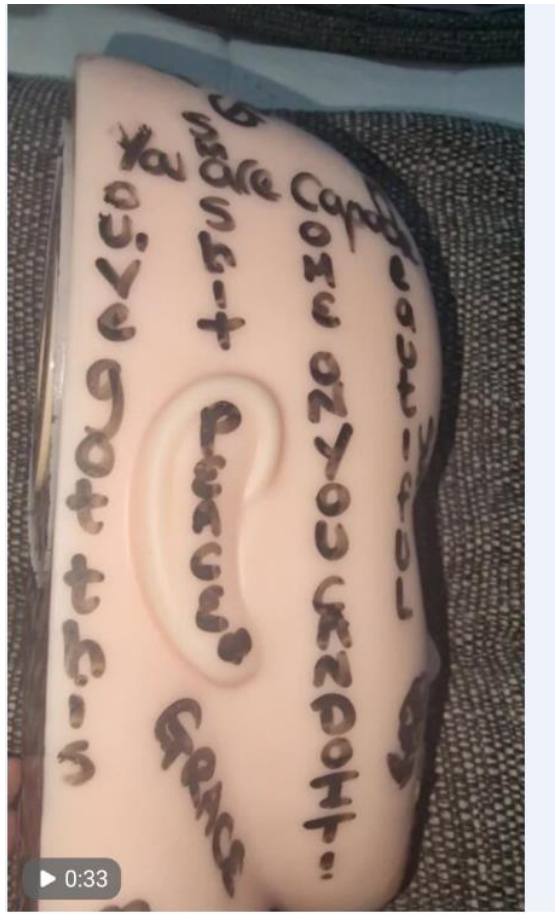
Presenter: Dr Sarah Telfer

School of Education: University of Greater Manchester



University of Greater Manchester

0 R G H±0 6 W R U \ +H D G 3 K R W R



MY JOURNEY THROUGH EDUCATION AS TRAUMA THERAPYPhoto Book - Photo Book (11 x 8.5 in)



University of Greater Manchester

'LJLWDO 6WRU\ERRN 0RVDL

- My Storybook

My Teaching Journey started at the Manchester Portland School of English in 2016. I taught English to international students from all over the world after doing my CELTA. However, I wanted to develop myself further and continuously looked for opportunities.



University of Greater Manchester

Japanese Story Cranes





University of Greater Manchester

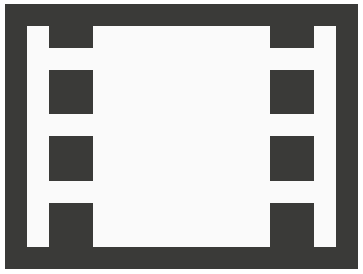
Digital Storytelling

[Mosaic]

[My Storybook]









VLOG



University of Greater Manchester

- Stage 2- as a trainee teacher, you will be asked to attend a one-to-one discussion in which you will be asked to discuss and share your rationale behind your creative choices to 'tell your story'. This aim of this professional discussion is to encourage you to consider how storytelling might be used as your unique selling point (USP) at interview and to enhance your personal employability skills.
- We are interested in learning more about your stories of ‘lived personal lived experiences’ of training to be a teacher, and how these might be utilised to enhance your employability skills.



University of Greater Manchester

^ š Ƒ s] À Z } Œ] v P

- GMT20250409-135528_Recording_1760x778 (4).mp4



University of Greater Manchester

Methodology

- Analysed the trainee teachers' storytelling creations/resources charting their Cert Ed & PGCE (M) Journeys
- One to one viva interviews with the trainee teachers on zoom
- Zoom Transcripts were analysed using Nvivo-thematic analysis



University of Greater Manchester

/v]š] o &]tv u]vŒPP]vP dZ u • ~Es]À}•

🗣️ Storytelling as a Communication Tool

Facilitates language practice, narrative structure, and audience awareness.

🌱 Confidence and Identity through Storytelling

Builds learner self-efficacy and personal voice in academic or professional contexts.

🎨 Visual and Creative Aids as Memory and Emotion Anchors

Enhances retention and emotional engagement; supports multimodal learning.

💡 Es]À} v oÇ•]• ŒÀ o•]vš Œ }vv š šZ u•}(
}uuµv] š]}vU }v(] v U v Œ š]À]šÇX

I think being a good storyteller shows that you've got good communication skills… it shows that you can be reflective."

Ashley

'set the scene and gives interviewers a feel of the situation….form of influence and persuasion'

Natalie

🗣️ Storytelling as a Communication Tool

Facilitates language practice, narrative structure, and audience awareness.

University of Greater Manchester

“started with a passion… but came with struggle… with resilience”
Sadie

‘allows me to share anecdotes that illustrate how I have overcome challenges… increasing my chance of being selected’
Scarlett

Confidence and Identity through Storytelling

Builds learner self-efficacy and personal voice in academic or professional contexts.

University of Greater Manchester

‘helps to offer scaffolding for students if they have the pictures there’
Orla

‘draws on the emotions of other people… these things really etch into people's memories’
Sabira

🎨 Visual and Creative Aids as Memory and Emotion Anchors

Enhances retention and emotional engagement; supports multimodal learning.

University of Greater Manchester

5 H I H U H Q F H V

- Abrahamson, C.E. (2005) 'Storytelling as a pedagogical tool in higher education', *Education*, 125(3), pp. 440–449.
- Fisher, W.R. (1984) 'Narration as a human communication paradigm: The case of public moral argument', *Communication Monographs*, 51(1), pp. 1–22
- Letexier, R. (2008) *Storytelling as an instructional method: Descriptions and research questions.* [online] Available at: https://files.eric.ed.gov/fulltext/ED502631.pdf [Accessed 11 November 2025]
- Rossiter, M. (2002) 'Narrative and stories in adult teaching and learning', *ERIC Digest*, No. 241. [online] ERIC Clearinghouse on Adult, Career, and Vocational Education, Columbus, OH. Available at: https://files.eric.ed.gov/fulltext/ED473147.pdf [Accessed 11 November 2025].
- Rossiter, M. and Simmons, S. (2006) 'The role of narrative in adult learning', in Rossiter, M. and Clark, M.C. (eds.) *Narrative and the practice of adult education.* Malabar, FL: Krieger Publishing Company, pp. 27–38.

University of Greater Manchester



University *of* Greater Manchester

greatermanchester.ac.uk