



The Man, the Boy and the Donkey

WORKSHOPS

STORY:

The Man, the Boy and the Donkey

COUNTRY:

Greece

AGE:

6 - 9

MATERIALS:

Colours, cardboard, fabrics, paper

LEARNING OBJECTIVES:

Analyzing a decision making process in order to understand ones behavior.

Developing listening and argumentation skills.

Express ideas through body language in order to develop creative thinking.

METHODS:

Moral Dilemma

Drawing and thinking

Collaborative Learning

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The Man, the Boy and the Donkey

A man and his son were once going with their Donkey to market. As they were walking along by its side a countryman passed them and said: "You fools, what is a Donkey for but to ride upon?"

So, the Man put the Boy on the Donkey and they went on their way. But soon they passed a group of men, one of whom said: "See that lazy youngster, he lets his father walk while he rides." So, the Man ordered his Boy to get off, and got on himself.

But they hadn't gone far when they passed two women, one of whom said to the other: "Shame on that lazy lout to let his poor little son trudge along."

Well, the Man didn't know what to do, but at last he took his Boy up before him on the Donkey. By this time, they had come to the town, and the passers-by began to jeer and point at them. The Man stopped and asked what they were scoffing at.

The men said: "Aren't you ashamed of yourself for overloading that poor donkey of you and your hulking son?"

The Man and Boy got off and tried to think what to do. They thought and they thought, till at last they cut down

a pole, tied the donkey's feet to it, and raised the pole and the donkey to their shoulders.

They went along amid the laughter of all who met them till they came to Market Bridge, when the Donkey, getting one of his feet loose, kicked out and caused the Boy to drop his end of the pole. In the struggle the Donkey fell over the bridge, and his fore-feet being tied together he was drowned.

"That will teach you," said an old man who had followed them: "Please all, and you will please none."

ACTIVITIES

Setting

A scenario. It can be made out of cardboard, foam board and/or fabrics and a donkey made of cardboard.

Participants

A narrator (teacher, librarian, etc) An facilitator (teacher, librarian, another adult, etc) Children as extras doing what the narrator says

Activity 1:

This activity has two parts.

In the first part, the facilitator will choose children to perform the characters of the tale (for example, a child will be the man, another will be the boy, etc) and they will be explained what they have to do when the narrator starts narrating.

In the second part, the narrator will narrate the story. The idea is that children have to play their character while the narrator is telling the story to the rest of the group of children who will be watching. The facilitator will be guiding the children to do their part as the narration continues.

Activity 2:

Question for self-reflection connected to a story.

Graded to children between 6-7 and between 8-9.

According to their language proficiency level questions can be more complex. These questions are just a guide but facilitators can adapt the questions according to the audience or specific educational objectives.

The facilitator can use questions such as:

- Do you always listen to people?
- Is it important what other people think of you? Why?
- Do you think is always important to listen to what other people say about us?
- What's the difference between listening to people and doing what they say?
- What do you think is to criticise another person?
- Do you think is good or bad to criticise another people thoughts and actions?
- What's a difference between commenting people's actions and giving them an honest advice?

- Do you sometimes comment on others people actions? Why?
- From whom do you usually ask an advice?
- Which decision was the most appropriate in your opinion?
- What would have you done? Why?
- Is it hard to make your own decision when lot of people are commenting your actions?
- How do you make your own decision?

Activity 3:

This activity is graded for children between 6-7 and between 8-9. According to their language proficiency level there are two options:

- a) The children can draw the option they prefer of the tale.
- b) The children can create their own option of the tale (for example, a man who helps the man and the boy giving them a horse).

Then, they have to show their option to the rest of the group and explain why they have chosen that option.

*The facilitator can help the children at any moment.

Activity 4:

Creative task.

Graded to children between 6-7 and between 8-9. There will be two age groups so the facilitator can use the appropriate vocabulary and structures or drawings or flashcards to complete the texts. The children have to find a moral (a main message) of a story and turn it in to rhyme. Here is an example the facilitator can give to the children.

*"Listening to people is helpful
Specially if they are cheerful
But make sure to do
What is best to you"*

*Provide feedback enough (vocabulary, resources, ideas) so they can work freely in the next activity.

Activity 5:

Reciting the rhyme for the whole group! (They can use dancing, reciting, acting out or drawing for their presentations).

*Let them free so they can enjoy the activity.