

Telling Tales



by Mark Taylor



In the Coyote editorial team, we felt it could be inspiring to look at telling tales and stories which help us reach the parts that other activities in training never do. Tales generate images in our heads and appeal to emotions, often leaving things open to several interpretations – great stuff to start discussions and introduce themes. If you have tales you would like to share in this section, please let us know!

This time we look at learning and creativity, with two tales from Alfredo Garcia of Youth Action for Peace. Thanks Alfredo!

The Dog

Once upon a time there was a dog and his owner ... The dog was a little ill, and the owner had to give the dog his medicine twice a day.... In the morning and in the afternoon the owner held the dog roughly and forced a spoon into the dog's mouth... In this way the owner repeated the process for a month... Right from the first time the animal hated the medicine... One day the bottle of medicine fell and broke and the liquid spread across the floor... Then the dog began to lick the medicine from the floor. At that moment the owner discovered that what the dog hated wasn't the medicine, it was only the way in which the owner gave the medicine.

The Yellow Flower With the Green Stem

Once upon a time, a boy was going to school for the first time. He arrived in the classroom, sat down with the other pupils and waited for the words of the teacher.

What will we do in the school? Will we draw today? the boy asked the teacher.
We will draw a flower.

Then the boy took out his coloured pencils pack and began to draw a beautiful flower with petals of several colours. The teacher looked at what he was doing and said: No, wait! We will draw a flower with yellow petals and a green stem. So the boy deleted his drawing and drew a flower with yellow petals and a green stem. Next week the teacher asked the pupils to draw a dog. The boy began to draw an orange dog with five legs and it was as big as a tree. When the teacher saw the drawing she said to the boy: No, not in that way, you must draw a brown dog, with only four legs and it must be smaller than the tree.

During his first years in the school the boy did a lot of drawings in the school. Landscapes, houses, animals, plants, persons, ... He used to begin drawing what he wanted but afterwards he learned to draw what the teacher asked for.

After some years his family moved house and then he began to study in another school, with new colleagues and a new teacher.

- ▶ The boy was excited about the first day at his new school.
- ▶ He came into the classroom and put his coloured pencils in his desk.
- ▶ What we will do today? he asked the teacher.
- ▶ Today we will draw.
- ▶ What colours will we use?
- ▶ Choose the colours you wish.
- ▶ But what must we draw? asked the boy.
- ▶ Whatever you want said the teacher.
- ▶ The boy hesitated for a few seconds.
- ▶ Then slowly he took his pencils and began to draw a flower with yellow petals and green stem.

