

School Story Curriculum

Book 3



A resource for teachers, educators, special educators, storytellers, schools and children.

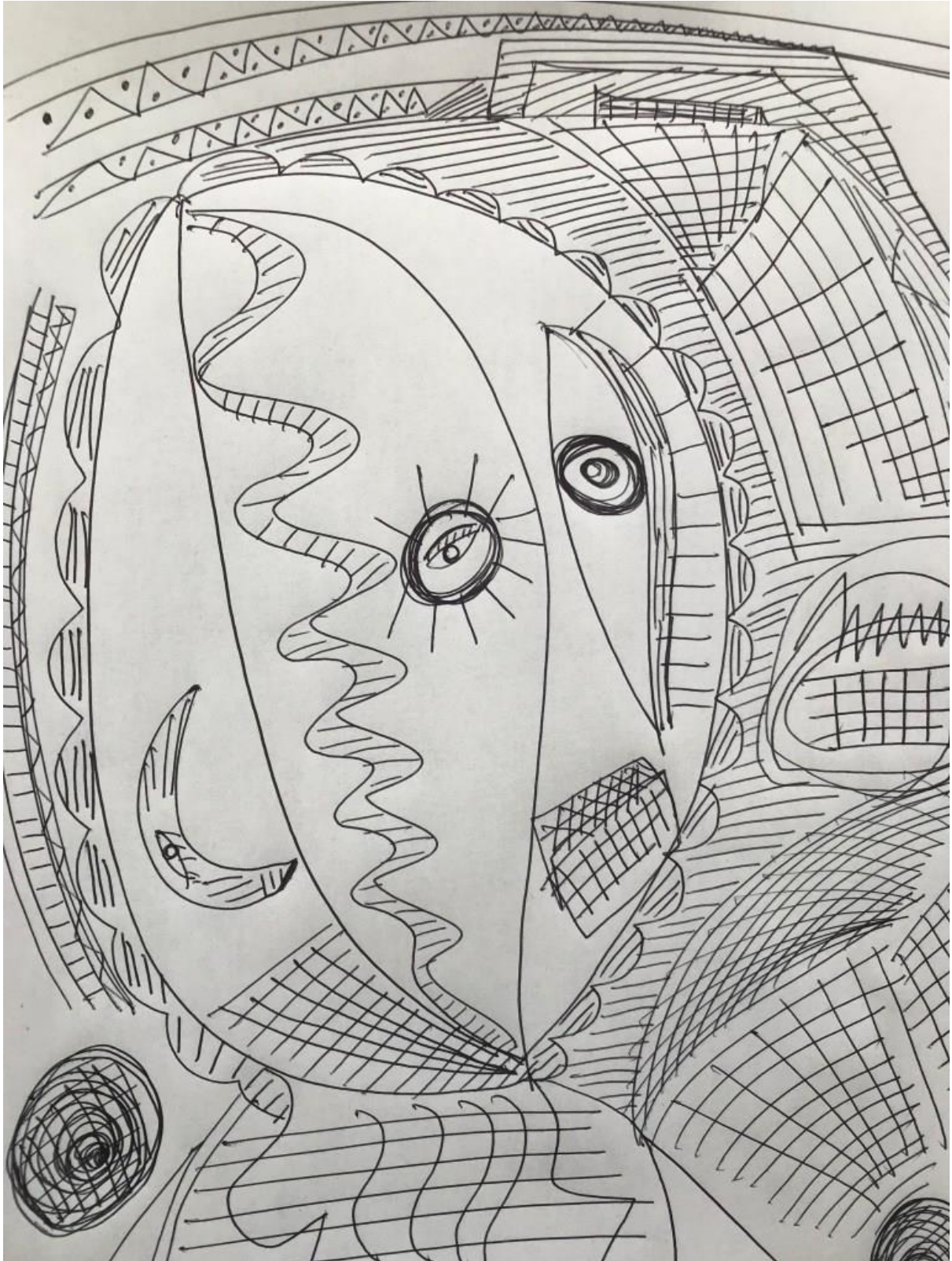


Folktales - Uniting humanity

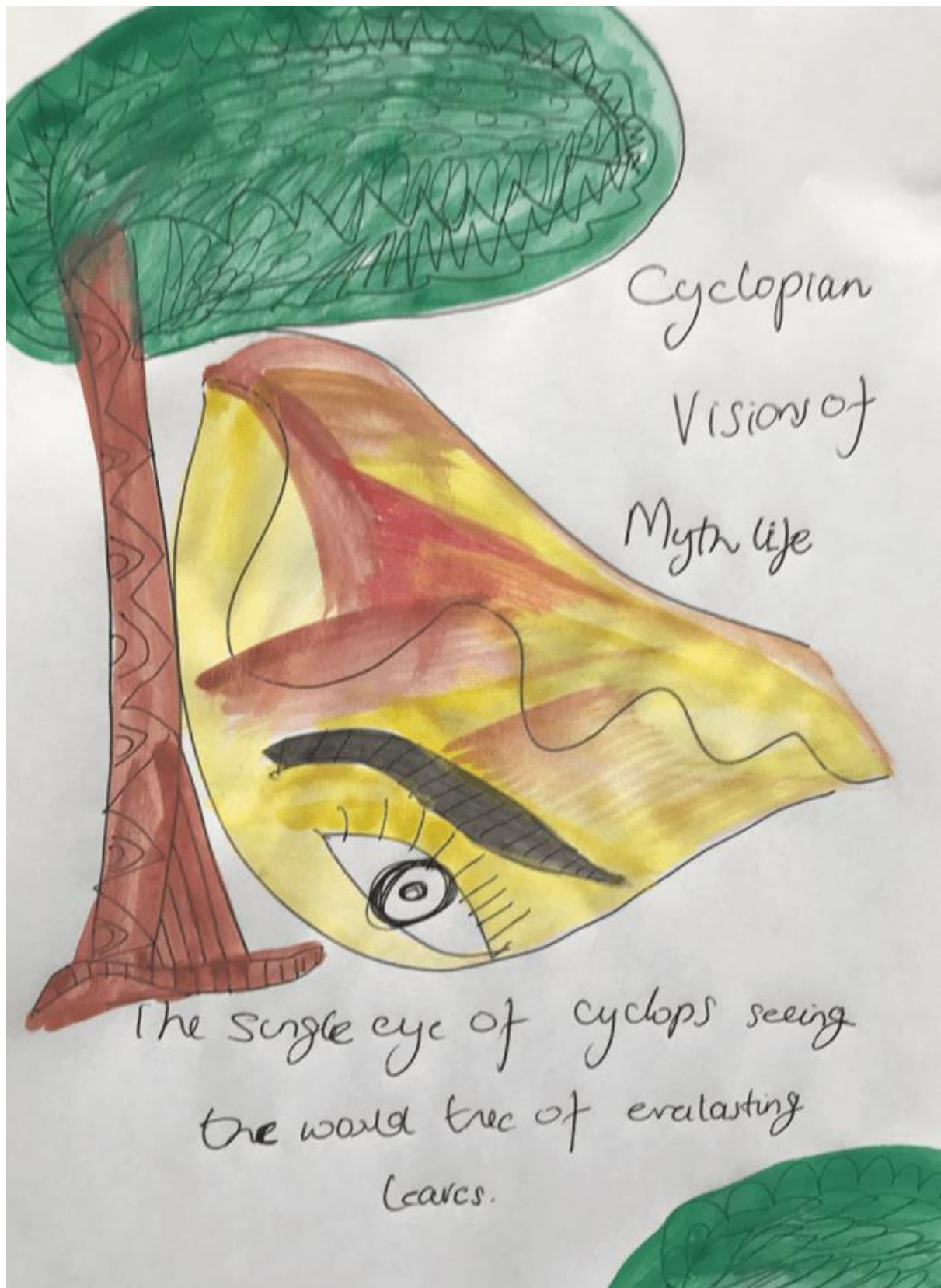


In all of humankind analysis, wherein we try to find what unites the homo sapiens as a species - we find the commonality of the folktale rooted in the art of storytelling.

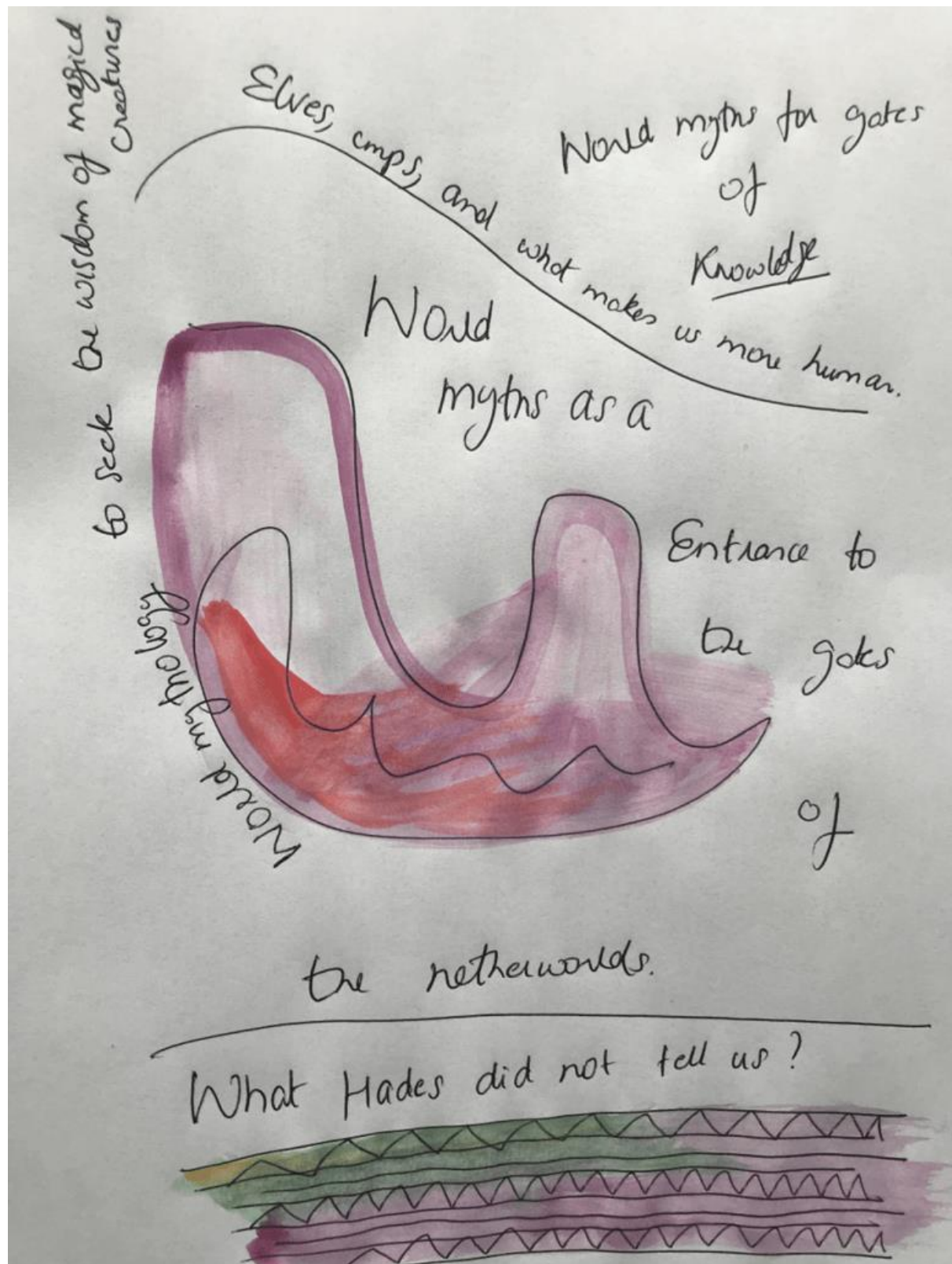
World mythology as a method of deconstructing the ritual led lives of traditional societies and our ancestors



World Mythology Deconstructs



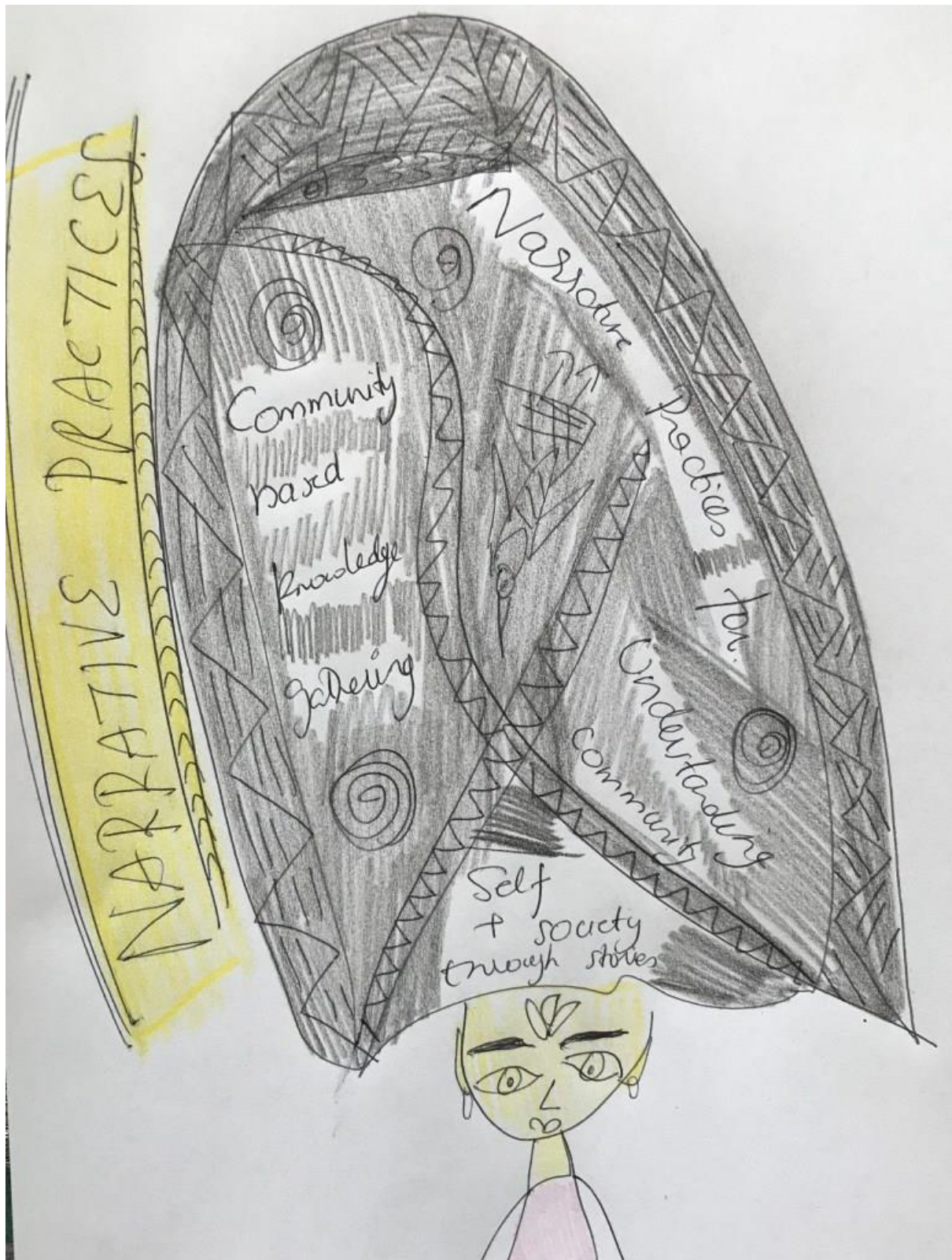
World Mythology Deconstructs



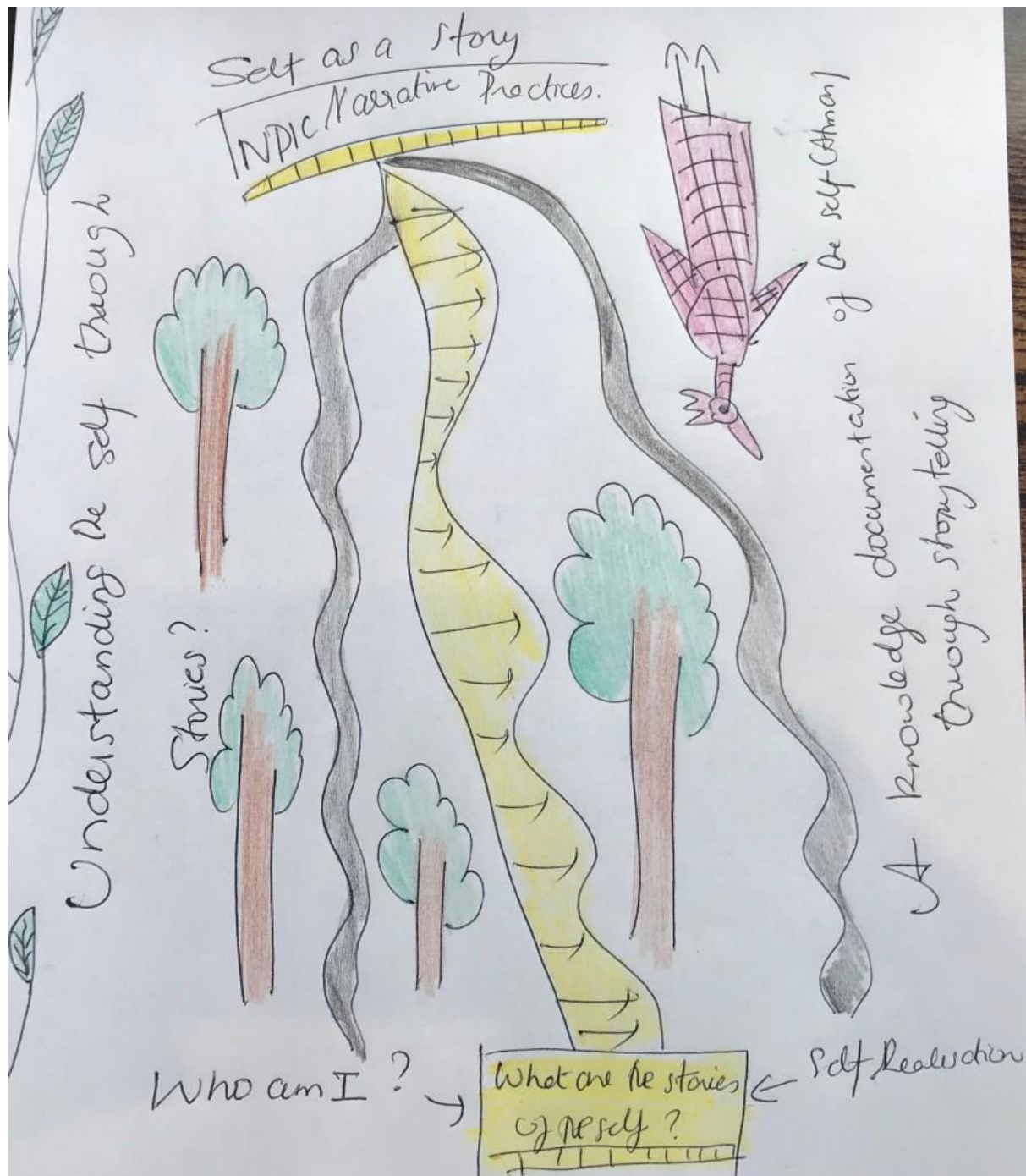
World Mythology Deconstructs



Community based knowledge gathering - Narrative Practices



The self as a story - Indic Narrative Practices



The story of elephant and the cat

Buddhist Story

Once upon a time in the forest, there lived an elephant. This elephant was a small baby elephant. And it liked all living creatures, and it was also very very fond of the Buddha who lived close by. It would often go to the Buddhist ashram and hear sermons of the Buddha. And it will come back and narrate these sermons back to its family. And its family was very very thrilled to hear these sermons from the baby elephant. One day while the elephant was walking on its way to the Buddhist camp, it tripped and it fell on a cat. It was a small cat and the cat cried out loud. It said, "Aaah you are hurting me. You don't want me to live."

The elephant was horrified. It said, "I am sorry, I tripped by mistake and I fell on top of you, don't feel bad. I will tell you what is to be done, show me your wounds."

But the small cat refused to show its wounds. The baby elephant felt bad but knew it was his fault. He said, "Come we will go to the river, you can drink some water, you will feel better."

The cat refused to walk with the baby elephant. In this manner the cat refused everything the baby elephant offered it. The baby elephant felt really sad. Finally, the baby elephant said, "I am going to the Buddha's ashram, if you come with me we can hear a nice discourse."

But this time the cat did not refuse, "Huh the Buddha, I also have a question for the Buddha, I'll come with you." So, the cat suddenly got up, it was pretending to be very ill, it got and it jumped on the elephants tail and rode upto the Buddha's ashram. In the Buddha's ashram it went up and asked a question, "Does the cat have a Buddha nature?" it asked. The Buddha looked compassionately at the cat and said, "Mew."

The tree and the bird

School Story Curriculum

Concept: Happiness

Subject: Positive Psychology

Once upon a time, a bird was singing. It was singing a song about a mariner. The mariner was an ancient mariner. The song was not about a poem of the same name. Now, the bird was singing of a mariner she knew of and who was an immortal. The immortal mariner heard the bird singing. He left his ship forever and built a hut near the tree in which the bird sang. The tree was also pleased. It shed no leaves in autumn for it was very happy even in that season listening to the bird sing.

Why cats climb trees?

Once a cat approached a bison with some news.

"The Buddhists have announced," said the cat, "that the Bodhi Nature is in trees."

"It that so?" asked the Bison who was rather fond of the cat.

"Yes," said the cat, "that is the pronouncement of the Buddhists."

"Ok," said the bison.

"Thus it is," said the cat.

The cat knew of the thusness of reality from trees and became an ardent tree climber.

The boy and the tamarind tree

Once a boy was playing around a tamarind tree. The tamarind tree was watching the boy with interest.

The tree knew that the boy was a future bodhisattva. But as soon as the boy saw the tree watching him, he bowed, apologised and went to another tree. The tamarind tree was happy. The boy had all the traits of a future bodhisattva - compassion and concern for others. This is the first time the tree had seen a future bodhisattva. It was a happy tree now and established in its own tree nature.

Tally - The Sea Elephant

Small Story

Once upon a time on Earth, there used to live a tribe of sea elephants who had fins and who could swim around in the great oceans. Among these sea elephants there lived a small baby elephant called Tally. She was plump baby elephant who loved playing with the purple stones that lined the sea bed. Tally would decorate the purple stones with seaweed and laugh loudly at her creations. Though Tally was a merry baby elephant - she had a problem. She could not speak without stammering. Tally developed a stammer when she was 3 years old.

All baby sea elephants were sent to Sea Elephant preschool when they were 3 years. In this school they were taught the alphabet and counting by their teacher Ms Beena. Now, try as Ms Beena did she could not get Tally to speak clearly. Tally was terribly scared of the Ms Beena and her classmates and she would not open her mouth.

When she opened her mouth the words would just not come out right. They would never form in the

proper order. She would pause too long in a single syllable. So instead of saying - A for apple, Tally would say - aaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaa
fffffffffffffffffoooooooooooooor aaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaapllll
llllleeeee.

Tally had a terrible stammer.

Ms Beena was at wits end. But she wanted to find a solution for Tally. Ms Beena was a grandmother elephant. She was majestic and grand. She had a deep and lovely voice. She wanted Tally to speak like her.

Ms Beena had a friend - Greya, the talkative catfish. Greya and Ms Beena discussed Tally's case.

"Why don't we teach Tally though songs" asked Greya.

Ms Beena liked the idea.

Next day they sang a song in class. This song was about Tally's favourite purple stones.

Purple stones, purple stones - where have you been?

Purple stones, purple stones - what have you seen?

Purple stones what do you love?

Purple stones did you see the Seacow?

While all the children sang the song properly. Tally struggled with it in class. Ms Beena was dejected.

That evening when Tally was playing with her favorite purple stones - the words of the song came to her.

She desperately wanted to sing to the purple stones.

She wanted them to feel loved. But could she sing?

Lo and behold, when she sang - the song formed itself and before she knew it she sang perfectly to the purple stones -

Purple stones, purple stones - where have you been?

Purple stones, purple stones - what have you seen?

Purple stones what do you love?

Purple stones did you see the Seacow?

Tally was amazed at the miracle and very happy with herself.

Next day, when Tally went to class she sang the song without errors. Ms Beena was smiling. Now, Tally could speak without stammering. Everyone in class clapped.

The elephant and the bird

Once upon a time, there lived a greying elephant called Millie. He was old and his skin was thick with lines. He was wise. But this was not because of his age. Millie had always been wise. When he was a baby, he used to say the wisest things. And everyone used to say, "Millie is wise beyond words."

Millie had an ostrich friend called Shla. This ostrich friend was Shla was known to be a flighty dullard in the forest. People often wondered how the wise Millie was such good friends with that fool Shla.

Now, one day Shla started spreading the rumour that the sun was going to collapse into the sea. Most animals laughed at the thought but Shla kept insisting. Just to be sure the Jackal asked Millie if the sun was going to collapse into the sea. Millie, who was very wise and knew all the different things, knew this was not possible. "It is impossible that the sun will collapse into the sea,"

So, the jackal and indeed all the animals were reassured.

Soon, after two days infact, the sun did collapse into the sea. All the animals in the forest were amazed.

They asked Shla how she knew this was going to happen. Shla said, "The time had come for the sun to retire, that is why it has collapsed into the sea."

"What will happen to the world now?" the jackal asked. "How will it run, without the sun, won't all of us perish soon?"

"Don't worry," said Shla. "Whenever a sun retires, another sun will take its place. Soon in a few days, another sun will emerge."

"How do you know?" asked the jackal, this time believing Shla.

"I know because, I have seen millions of suns retire and new suns take their place?" said Shla.

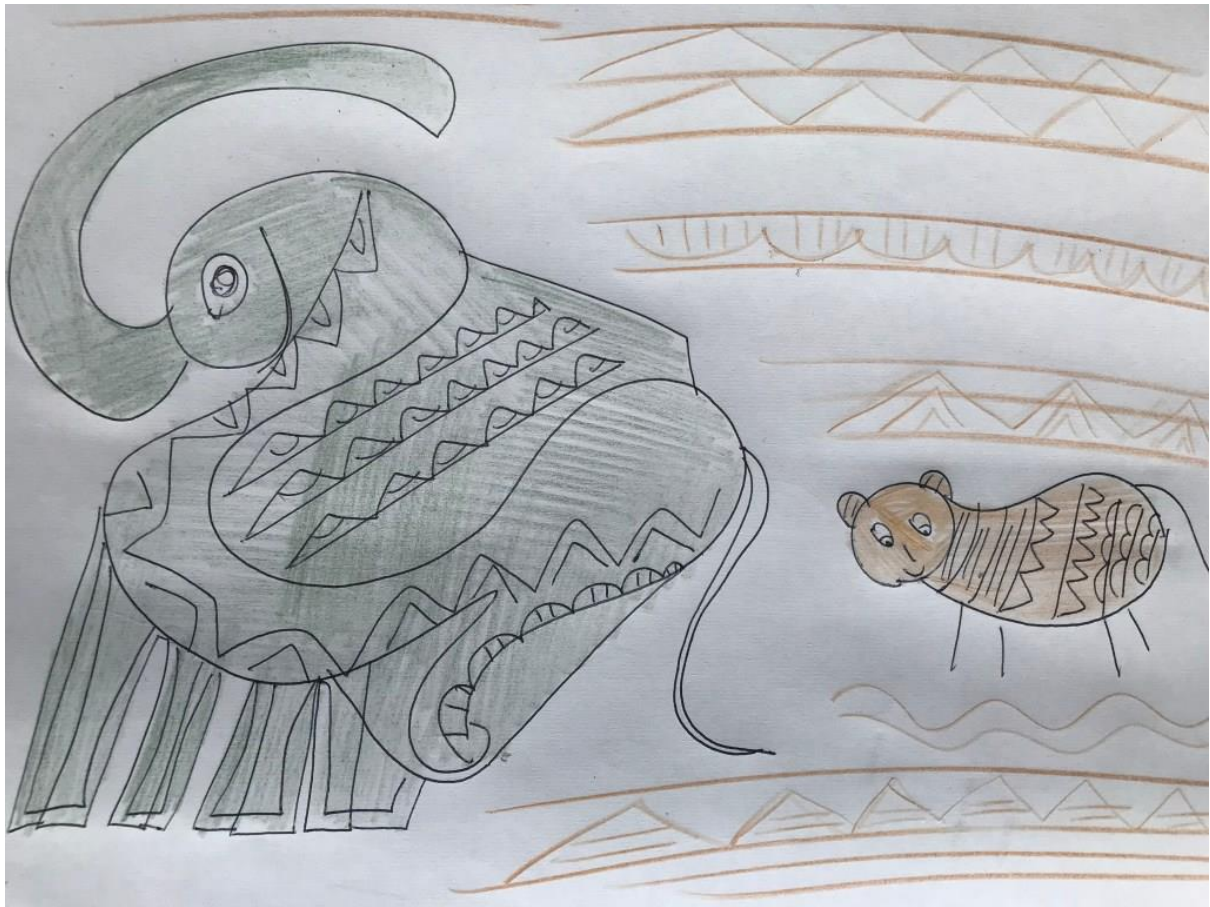
"But, how is this even possible?" asked Millie who was listening.

Shla spoke shyly, "I am older than all of you. I am the oldest being on earth. I have been around for millions of years. You all think I am a dullard because I don't speak much. But the truth is I don't speak much because I have been around too much."

That evening Millie, the elephant learnt he was not the wisest being around. But he was awed by his friend and didn't mind this.

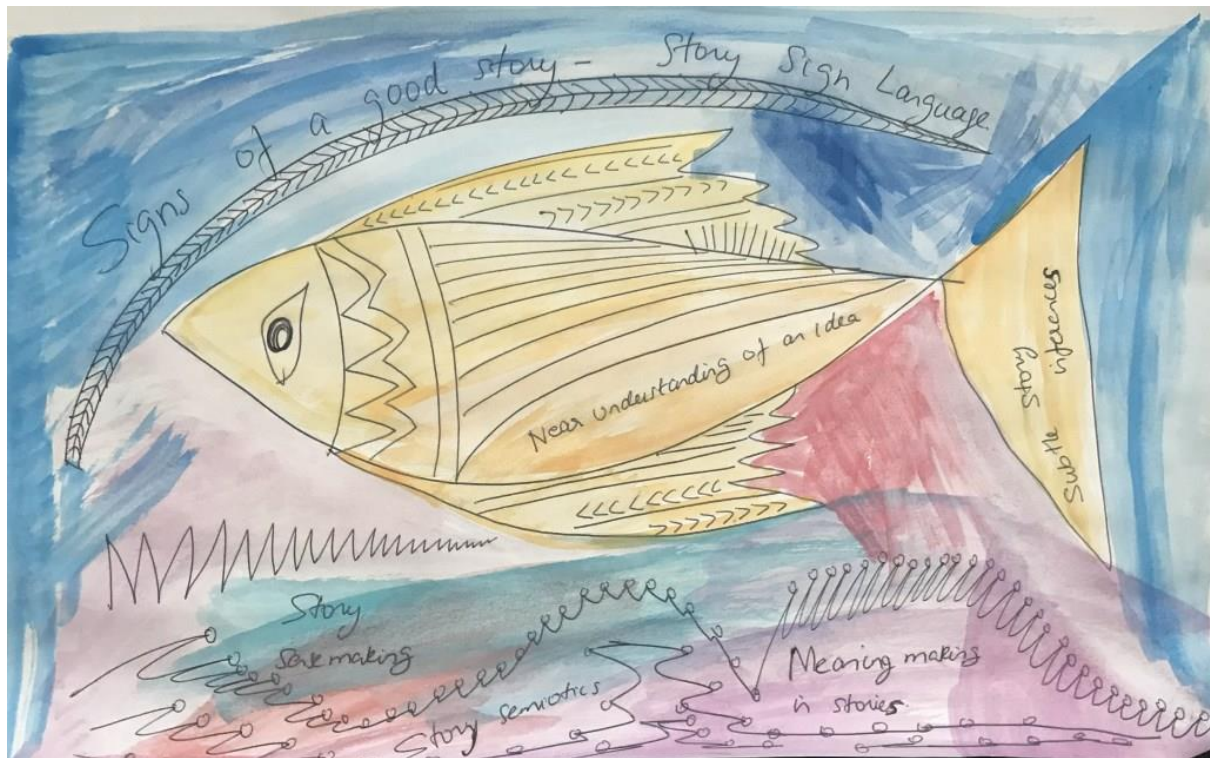
"Never judge by appearances," is what the jackal concluded.

The cat and the elephant



A cat was rushing around. An elephant was also rushing around. The cat crushed no grass. The elephant crushed much grass. The cat became quiet and remained calm henceforth. The elephant became quiet and remained calm henceforth. The Buddha was giving sermon the forest.

Story Sensemaking



The fish and the alligator

Once upon a time, a fish was swimming in the deep seas. The alligator was swimming next to it. It so happened that the fish spotted the alligator and alligator spotted the fish. The fish thought, "so this is the end."

Meanwhile a prehistoric crocodile was also swimming in the seas. It spotted both the fish and alligator. It decided to fight with the alligator and as a consequence the fish swam away and escaped. Then the prehistoric crocodile and the alligator fought for some time. Both then swam away.

The boy and the tamarind tree

Once a boy was playing around a tamarind tree. The tamarind tree was watching the boy with interest.

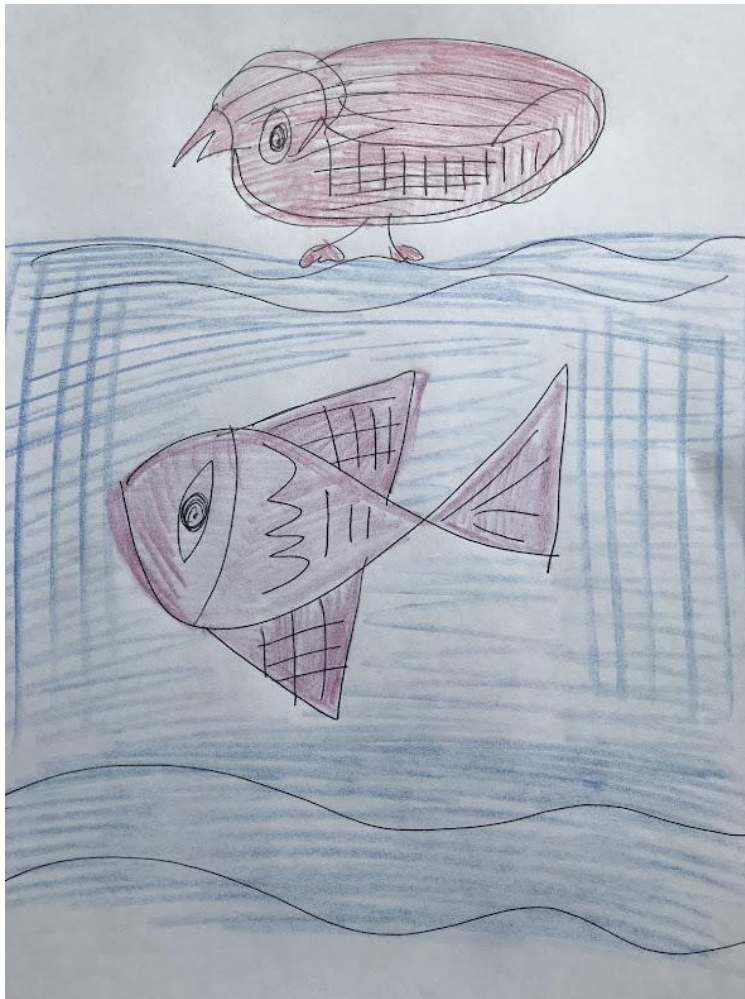
The tree knew that the boy was a future bodhisattva. But as soon as the boy saw the tree watching him, he bowed, apologised and went to another tree. The tamarind tree was happy. The boy had all the traits of a future bodhisattva - compassion and concern for others. This is the first time the tree had seen a future bodhisattva. It was a happy tree now and established in its own tree nature.

The story of fish and the crow

The crow was sleeping. It had fallen asleep after a hearty meal. It had eaten fresh grains and they had been crunchy and tasty. In its dreams it saw a fish in the sea. In the meantime, this very fish was dreaming in the sea. It too was sleeping. In its dreams, it saw a crow dreaming about it. Now, when the fish got up, a fisherman baited it and it fell for the bait as it had been happy, and the breadcrumbs looked tempting. Now, it so happened that the fisherman went on land and transferred the fish caught and a few other like it to a basket. He was taking them to the market to sell them.

Now, a crow, in fact it was the same crow the fish had seen in its dreams and who had dreamt about the fish, saw that the fish he had dreamt about was in the fisherman's clutches. It felt sorry for the fish. It flew to the basket and picked the fish in its beak and flew away with it. It soon dropped the fish in the sea. The fish thanked it. They were both connected by their dreams. This story teaches about the power of dreams and of compassion.

A fish and a duck



Once upon a time, a fish and duck were whispering to each other. It was gossip time infact. And the latest gossip was being shared at this time by the fish and the duck was listening keenly. The gossip was that the river was changing course. The river Nadi was changing course and moving in a different direction and because of this. There was tremendous rustling in the forest. All the living beings were talking to each other. It was gossip time.

The buffalo and the story

Subject: Mathematics

Concept: Trigonometry - what is it?

Once upon a time, there lived a water buffalo. It was slow and sluggish most of the time, as the time of the year was winter - quiet the best season to be slow and sluggish.

It was also a happy buffalo, as its enemy the storytelling bear was hibernating. Feeling happy in general it was tracing with its foot on the mud, right angles. These right angles are then being measured by it with the three trigonometric formula.

With the three trigonometric formulae it could find the length of an unknown side if the other length and angle were known. Similarly, it could find the angle if the two lengths were known. Thus, the buffalo passed its winter days.

The Elephant and the Turtle

Once upon a time, in a great forest, there lived in great harmony all creatures. In this forest, the concept of predators and prey did not exist. There were no carnivores and all creatures were herbivores. This was a forest in an uninhabited island near Australia cut for millions of years from the rest of the landmasses. In this forest, there were various types of nourishing and rehabilitating herbs. Yet, no one knew of this forest apart from its own inhabitants. The elephant and the turtle at the bottom of the earth who held the earth together however knew of this peaceful forest that existed on an unexplored island next to Australia. The elephant and the turtle were giant beings on whose backs the entire earth rested. This according to them was the deep secret of the earth - inside the earth were all natural relations were built on the concept of predator and prey - there exists an ecology that was not built on this principle.

The cow and the sheep

A flock of sheep were grazing in the hills. A cow saw them and observed them. He noticed their curly wool. It longed for a wool covering too. Meanwhile, it munched off some grass and found the grass interesting. It sat down munched the same grass for three hours. The cow forgot about the sheep and became established in its own cow nature.

Subject: Mathematics

Concept: Fractions

Definition: Parts of numbers are called fractions

Once upon a time, a fish was swimming in a pool of water. It wanted to see the deep seas. It found its way to an estuary and made its way to the deep waters. There it watched sharks hunt smaller sharks. Life was ruthless in the deep waters. However, the fish returned to its old pool of water. In time it realised that the pool of water was just a fraction of the water of deep sea it had visited. And this way, the fish learnt fractions.