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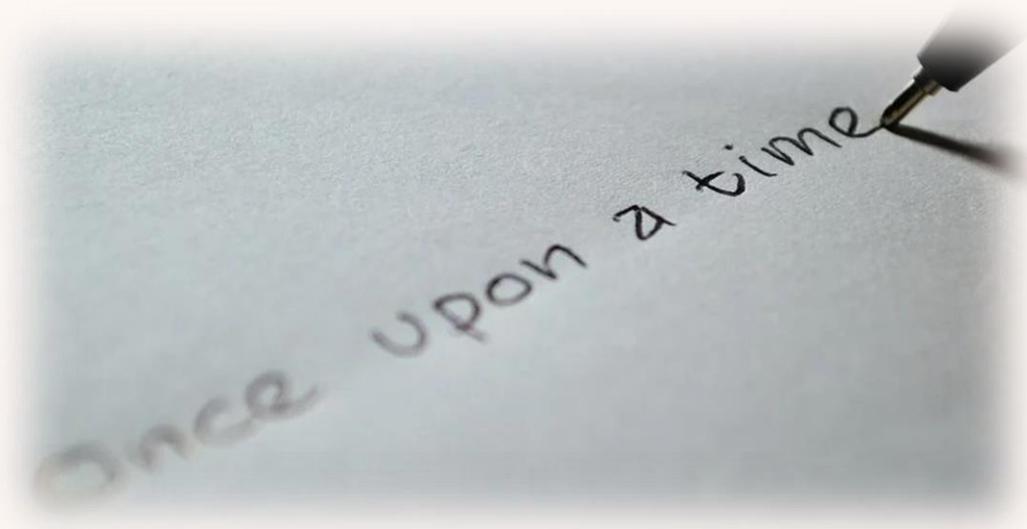
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**Playing with words....**  
**connecting through story**



**Dr Tracy Hayes**

**Centre for Research in Health & Society (CRiHS)  
and Learning Education & Development Research  
Centre (LED)**

# **Shared-story approaches: you tell me yours, then I'll tell you mine...**

All our explanations can be seen as stories. Whether we call them myths, legends, fables or hard fact, they are all stories. Our most precious scientific processes are still stories: patterns spun to explain observations, rhythms of words that change and grow as our understanding changes and patterns that might help to explain what is going on around us ...

(MacLellan, 2007, p.165)

# Starting with you...

- I have been writing, researching, and talking about my work, for many years.
- I begin most of my presentations (oral and written) by inviting those present with me to reflect on the experiences they have had.
- I invite participants to share with care...
- Then I share one of my stories with the aim of prompting a conversation.

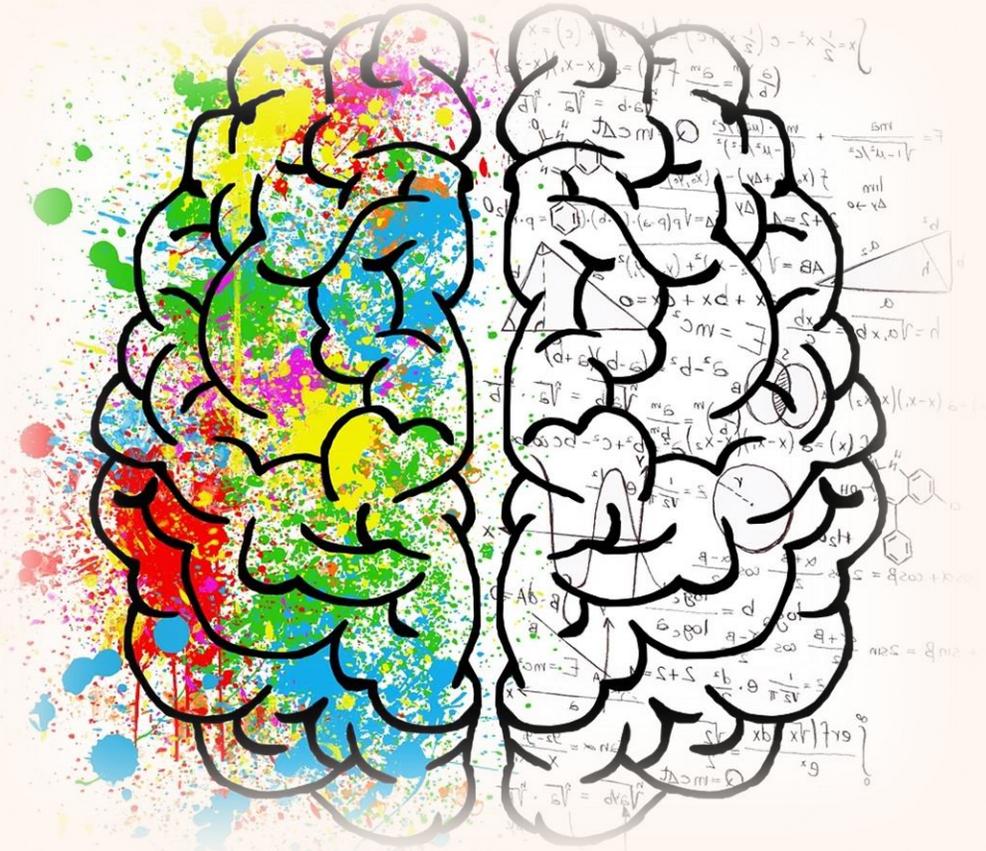
# Wind Dancer

*“Come and sit down, I’ve told you three times... can’t have you dancing whilst others are busy doing things.”* Hearing the words of the teacher, I look to see the cause for concern. One of the boys is slowly turning circles in the middle of the path. He is wearing his coat as a cape over his shoulders, his arms extended, face turned towards the sky. Mesmerised, I watch...

(extract from Hayes, 2020)

# Over to you... what are your initial reactions

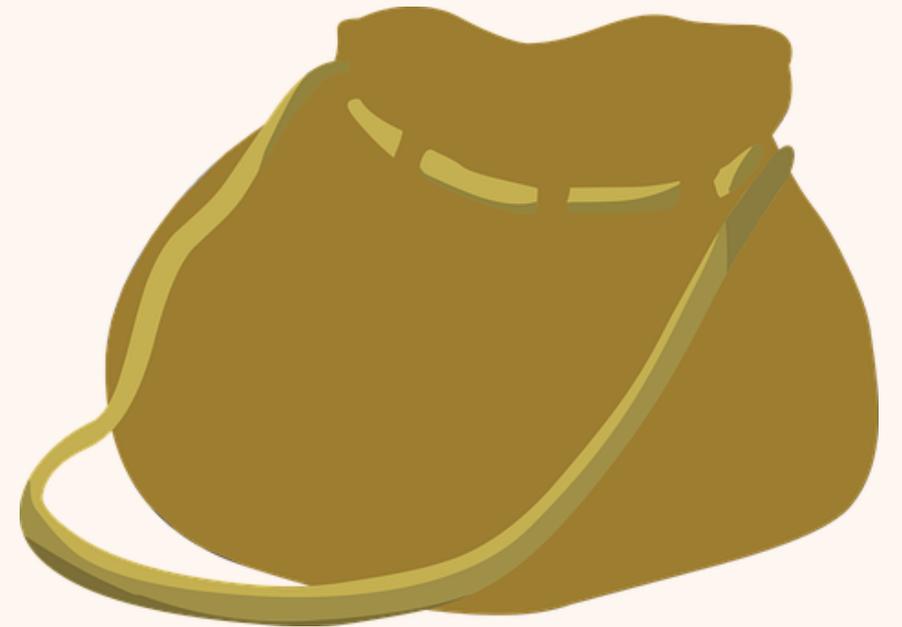
- Thinking about the story I shared, what are your initial reactions to this tale?
- Which points do you think I may have focused on in my article?



# The Carrier Bag Theory

Words hold things. They bear meanings.... Holding things in a particular, powerful relation to one another and to us.

(Le Guin, 1989, p.169)



# Conversation...

Conversation can “...encourage a form of ‘more than listening,’ where we understand listening not as a passive state but rather as careful **witnessing** of another’s stories.”

(Pérez-Bustos; Suchman, and Piraquive, 2020, p.238)



# To bring this to a close...

There are ethical and moral questions/dilemmas raised through entering the lives of others, participating alongside them, sharing stories and thoughts.

We should be open to this, and honest about reporting it.

As researchers we may avoid drawing on fiction – perhaps fearing our work might be seen as unscientific or unscholarly – lacking in criticality or analysis.

Yet the techniques used to create fiction can help bring non-fiction to life.

# Next 2 events in this themed series

- Wednesday 10 February 2021: Workshop (1.5 hours):  
Story crafting methods: exploring magic and mundane moments and capturing elusive elements.
- Wednesday 21 April 2021: Symposium (half-day): Telling small stories from the everyday to bring about change.
- References from this talk are available on request.

# Ways to continue this conversation...

**Twitter** @hayes\_tracy

**Email** tracy.hayes@cumbria.co.uk

**Website**

www.makingsenseofnature.co.uk

**Linkedin** <http://uk.linkedin.com/pub/tracy-hayes/16/629/b51>

