

Autobiographical Method – I Tell You a Story: Will You Tell Us Yours?

Target Group

Teachers who teach immigrant students with a minimum of linguistic competence in the language of the host country

Method

Autobiographical method: narration and self-narration inspired by the story read in class and result of the group work (short story: *The Square Who Wanted to Become Round* or any meaningful story about the topic “try to put yourself in the other’s shoes”)

Time required

120 min

Background information for the teaching lesson:

- Use of different types of pedagogical tools to teach the immigrants
- Improvement of the teaching material
- Development of new materials to be used for teaching

Professional competence

- Ability to recognize barriers and learning difficulties (especially from a cultural but also linguistic point of view)
- Knowledge of different types of methods on how to teach to immigrants who have a minimum basic knowledge of the language of the host country

Communication and language skills (part of social and personal skills)

- Knowledge of a basic narrative technique
- Ability to interact with immigrants
- Knowledge of different communication tools and strategies

Learning Outcomes

The student will learn to:

- tell about himself, to himself and to others with a simple but understandable language or through the use of drawings
- listen to others and then to be listened by others
- accept others and gain acceptance by others regardless of differences of any kind

Intercultural and social cohesion (Social competence)

- Ability to enhance mutual understanding (“to put oneself in someone else’s shoes”)
- Ability to develop group building, the sense of belonging and sharing

Short description of the lesson:



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- The teacher explains to the participants how the lesson will be developed
- The teacher expounds what the topic to be discussed is, that is the ability to know how to put oneself in the others' shoes and to accept the other without pushing him/her to change in order to be welcomed or liked.
- At the end, the students will have to tell a short story, by writing or drawing it, in which they are protagonists or spectators, inspired by the one read and commented on together with the teacher (the difficulty level will depend on the level of the students' linguistic competence)

Equipment needed:

- Interactive whiteboard/overhead projector connected to the PC with power point or equivalent software, or with any slideshow software. A set of photocopies of the story with text and pictures can replace the use of the interactive whiteboard/projector.
- Pens/pencils, writing pads/sheets of paper
- If the group of students is too large, the group can be divided into sub-groups that will work as teams;
- Desks arranged individually or joined together in case of team work

How to use:

- The teacher explains the idea behind the lesson
- He/she shows to the whole group the slides/the printed copies with the story of "The Square that Wanted to Become Round"
- Each student will read the text of one of the slides. It will be given the opportunity to skip the turn to those who don't feel like reading.
- In case there weren't enough students good enough at reading the text of the slides, it would be up to the teacher to read the missing parts.
- After reading the whole short story, all the participants will be given a questionnaire about it, about its characters and the situation in which they found themselves, about the liking/dislike felt for the protagonist and for the story itself, etc.
- In the end the participants will be asked to tell a short story in which the main characters are themselves, taking a cue from the one proposed by the teacher or from their own experience lived in a similar situation, or from that of people they know.
- The new short story can be developed both in a simpler or more articulate way based on the participants' linguistic competence.

Those who are not able to tell the story in words can simply summarize it with some



drawings. Those who do not feel like telling their own story can be allowed to invent one, or to collaborate in the composition of another student's story, or not to tell anything at all.

Additional information (images, link, forms, etc.): *The Square Who Wanted to Become Round* + questionnaire for bio/autobiography (see the attached file)

Possibility to create online exercises using the same story: [LearningApps - interactive and multimedia learning blocks](#)



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