Storytelling activity

Inspired by the image resources provided: Print out sufficient copies of the image so that all participants have their own copy.

There are two roles in this activity – the participant and the facilitator.

The activities coordinator, we suggest, take the role of facilitator. Everyone needs access to a copy of the same image. This activity is about responding to an image. There are no right or wrong answers. It's about stimulating the imagination, and responding in the moment.

The facilitator uses prompts/open ended questions, such as:

What do you see in this picture?

Where is it set?

Where in the world is it?

What time of year is it?

What makes you think so?

Can you describe the characters you see in the picture?

What names would you give them?

How are they related?

How are they feeling/feeling about each other?

What are they doing?

If you were in this picture what sounds would you hear/what smells/what tastes?

What happened just before this picture was taken?

What will happen next?

What title would you like to give this picture?

The facilitator writes down all the responses from the participant including gestures, laughter, exclamations. If you're in a group, try to write down the names or initials of who contributed what. When the session is coming to a close, the facilitator reads the story back to participant, naming as far as possible who contributed what. It's an activity that should be stimulating and fun, even joyful. It may make narrative sense, but it certainly doesn't have to. Also if you are in a group, it really doesn't mater if the participants don't agree. The important thing is to write down and value everyone's contribution.

