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# Stories 4 empowerment

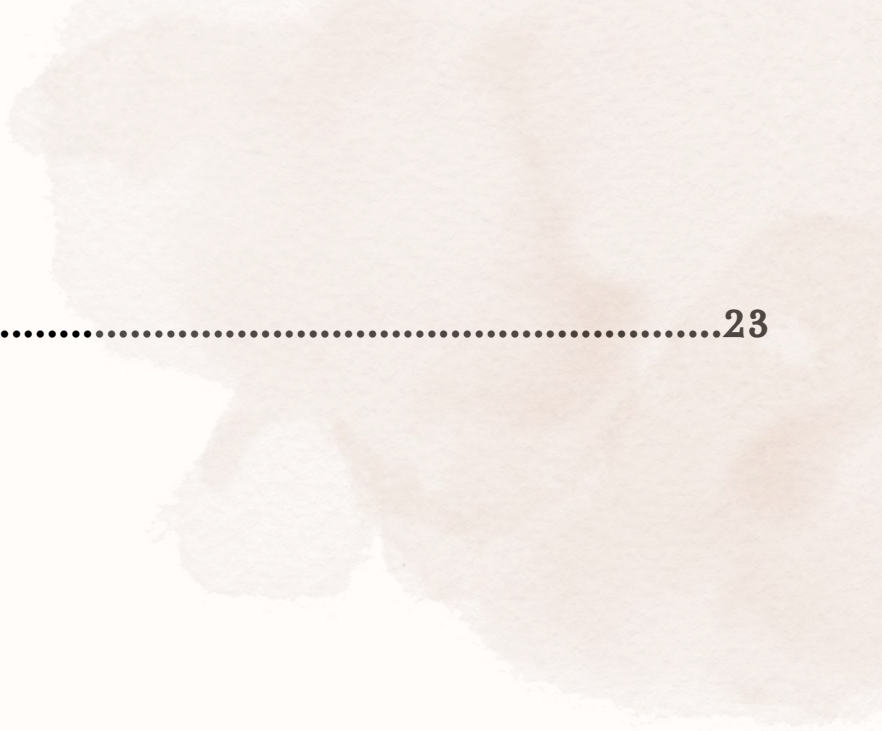
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Working on **EQUALITY**



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## **Working on value: Equality**

It is very important to highlight the value like equality. Faced with something or someone we do not know, we may feel fear, but if we overcome our prejudices and rediscover ourselves to be equal in our emotions, we can show more inclusion and acceptance towards others. In fact, the story can be re-read through the values of equality and inclusion as the fox and the lion recognise each other in their mutual diversity, accepting each other and building a relationship that overcomes judgement and distrust.



# “The fox and the lion”

That morning, a fox was walking quietly through the flowery meadows after the bad winter season. Suddenly her attention was drawn by a violent roar. It was a cry she had never heard and, terrified, she fled to hide behind a bush. From there she could see, sheltered among the leaves, the terrible animal that had made that sound: it was a lion, a beast unknown to her. Frightened, the poor fox ran away as fast as she could. A couple of days passed after that ugly encounter, which seemed almost to have been forgotten, when, all of a sudden, the little fox ran into the lion again. This time the king of the forest appeared right in front of her, obstructing her path. Frightened, she began to tremble like a leaf, but did not run away, remaining in place until the lion had moved away. The third time the fox came across the large animal, it discovered that its fear of it was gradually subsiding. So, during her next encounter with the lion, she was calmer and even managed to greet him with a cordial ‘good morning!’ Finally, when she saw him again, the fox tried to talk to him and was finally able to discover qualities such as courage and intelligence. From that day on, she never tired of listening to him, certain that she would only benefit from the experience of such a cunning animal and good hunter.



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## **Working on value: Equality**

Rewriting the story Suspicion to emphasize the value of equality is important because these values are essential in creating a more just and compassionate society.

Equality ensures that everyone, regardless of their appearance, background, or reputation, is treated with fairness and respect. In the original story, the woodcutter's initial suspicion of the Beast highlights how people are often judged based on stereotypes or external factors. By focusing on equality, the story can teach that people deserve to be understood and accepted for who they truly are, not for preconceived notions. This is crucial for reducing discrimination and fostering a more inclusive world.

Rewriting the story to highlight this value makes the story more relevant to contemporary issues, such as prejudice and personal growth.

By promoting the story would inspire adults to embrace empathy, treat others fairly, and face challenges with strength and optimism. This value is vital for building stronger, more supportive communities where everyone has the opportunity to thrive.

Author Unknown

# “Suspicion”

Once upon a time there was a woodcutter who realised one day that he didn't have his axe. Surprised and with tears in his eyes, he met his neighbour near his house, who, as always, smilingly and kindly greeted him.

As he entered his house, the woodcutter suddenly became suspicious and thought that it might have been the neighbour who had stolen his axe. In fact, now that he thought about it, his smile seemed nervous, he had a strange look on his face and I would even have said that his hands were shaking. On second thought, the neighbour had the same expression as a thief, walked like a thief and talked like a thief.

All this the woodcutter was thinking, more and more convinced that he had found the culprit of the theft, when he suddenly realised that his steps had taken him back to the forest where he had been the night before.

Suddenly, he stumbled over something hard and fell. When he looked down... he found his axe! The woodcutter returned home with the axe, regretting his suspicions, and when he saw his neighbour again he saw that his expression, gait and manner of speech were (and had been at all times) the same as always.



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## **Working on value: Equality**

Equality: The story could highlight the importance of treating others with equality and respect. The owner of the donkey had an argument with the traveler and did not want to provide the shade of the donkey because he thought that the donkey belongs to him. But the donkey that could not stand their voices left so both master and traveler were left without shadow. In this story equality is emphasized and refers to the state or condition of being equal, especially in rights or opportunities. It is a foundational principle emphasizing fairness and impartiality among individuals or groups.

Equality: Ensures that individuals within a society have equal access to resources, opportunities, and rights, regardless of race, gender, class, religion, or other characteristics.



# “The donkey and his shadow”

Once upon a time, a traveler hired a donkey and his master to help him cross a long desert.

They started very early in the morning, the traveler on the donkey and the master of the donkey beside him, on foot.

At noon when the heat had become unbearable they made a stop.

The traveler dismounted from the donkey and sat down to rest in its shade, since there was not a trace of vegetation around.

– Get up from here immediately, shouted the boss of the donkey. This position is mine.

– But I paid you! said the traveler.

– You paid me for the donkey and not for its shadow.

The two men kept bickering and bickering over who would sit in the shade.

And while the two men were arguing, the donkey that couldn't stand their voices any longer, stopped and left them without shade and without a means to cross the desert...

The story could highlight the importance of treating others with equality and respect. No matter your position you should treat people and animals in respect. All creatures have rights and should be treated with respect. The donkey in this story feels this discrimination and he abandons both the boss and the client because he is treated in a bad manner making strong the feeling that its opinion and position is excluded from others.



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## **Working on value: Equality**

The story could highlight friendship, sharing, giving and learning from mistakes. It also demonstrates value of equality. The story emphasizes the value of the hedgehog and the fox not by choosing a side, but by exploring their interplay and tension. The story reveals how these types shape our intellectual pursuits, personal lives, and broader culture. By doing so, the story underscores the importance of balancing conviction with adaptability, simplicity with complexity and singular vision with pluralist understanding.

**Author Unknown**

# **“The Hedgehog and the Fox”**

Once upon a time in a forest, well hidden in order to find out about its existence you had to walk kilometers outside the city, lived Marcos, the hedgehog. Mark was 4 years old. Old man, of course since hedgehogs live up to 5 years. Whoever you asked in the forest, however, said that he was seven-hearted, like a cat. They said that every three or so times he went out into the street, he didn't care about cars and bad people and at the risk of losing his life he crossed the road and went into the opposite forest. No other hedgehog had ventured to explore that forest, as everyone now knew that those who had gone there never returned.

The foxes that dominated the neighboring forest made sure to exterminate any small hedgehog that came near their nests. But none of them bothered Marko and everyone was surprised when he came back. But he didn't know either. He was so old that he did not care to die. He was living the moment. And everyone envied him for it, but no one did the same.

One morning, Markos decided to cross the road once more, go to the opposite forest and calmly bathe in the river. From a young age he loved to dip his thorns in the river of the opposite forest, he spent countless hours playing there with his brothers.

His small legs prevented him from reaching his destination quickly, so he always started early in the morning to save time. He thought that at that time there would not be many cars passing by, so his route would be safer.



That's what he did that morning, so he started early to cross the road. He couldn't hear well anymore, but he could hear those loud sirens coming towards him just before he reached the opposite forest. He turned his gaze to see a large, white vehicle speeding toward him. Unable to save himself, he wrapped himself around his thorns and realized that his life was over. The wheels of the white vehicle touched his back and he screamed in pain. The white vehicle continued to run and Marcos was left on the road, in pain, screaming but knowing that he was still alive.

- "I will fight!" he said and continued to shout for help.

After a while, Sifis, the brown bear, Melina, the leader of the wild boars and all the rest of the hedgehogs who heard Mark's call appeared from behind the tall grass. They looked at him and when they realized what had happened to him they started thinking of solutions.

- "Poor guy, I was telling him he's going to get it one day." Melina said

- "Is that what you have to say? Our friend is in pain, we must help him." Sifis answered her, wanting to help his friend

- "Well said!" cried the rest of the hedgehogs with one voice, and one continued saying:

- "He should be more careful. We all told him that cars are dangerous. He was old, he shouldn't be out on the street alone like that."

- "Exactly! He didn't listen to anyone and laughed at us because we couldn't cross the street out of fear. Here's what happened now." Melina said and turned to the forest. The hedgehogs followed her, and behind them Sifis said: "Good, you are right. Good luck to the old man, he never minded."

Markos was listening to them and was sulking. He didn't care about dying, but he was sure his friends would help him. Then, he heard a voice whisper his name. - "Marco! I'll help you." He turned the other way and saw a beautiful, reddish-brown fox, with a proud bushy tail, grab him and run to her nest. He placed him carefully on the soft grass and immediately other foxes gathered around him.



- "Welcome, Marco. I'm Elli, the fox queen. We will do everything to save you." she told him

Surprised, he asked her: - "But why? I would be the perfect food for you, why save me?"

- "Haven't you ever wondered why we haven't been messing with you in as long as you've been coming here?" she asked

- "Yes, why?" Markos asked her curiously

- "Because we saw the good in you. And good always wins." answered Elli

- "So? What good did I have that the others of my forest did not have? he asked again

- "Love. We saw love in you. None of your friends came to help you when you were suffering. But everyone asked for your help for so many years and you gave it. We knew it. For this we rewarded you, knowing that they would never do it." he said smiling

Marcos was bewildered, thanked her and realized that all his friends betrayed him. He stayed there for several days, got well, though he lost his thorns and was ready to go back to his forest. When he arrived everyone greeted him happily. He gathered them all under the tall tree and said to them:

- "I know why you are afraid to cross into the opposite forest. You are afraid of love and on the other side they only know how to love. Elli the fox queen helped me when you turned your back on me. My thorns are not lost, I know where they are. In your hearts." he told them and made his way to the fox forest, where he would become a permanent resident.

The rest of the animals realized their mistake, regretted, began to love and help each other and saw that their lives became more beautiful. This story highlights the true meaning of friendship, sharing, giving and learning from mistakes. It also highlights the importance of equality and the importance of rights to all creatures.

The hedgehog was a giving and sharing character that was not given the help that was offered by him to other hedgehogs. The fox on the contrary was the character that realized the kindness and the sharing of the hedgehog. However at the end of the story hedgehogs understand their mistakes and start a new way of living appreciating and offering help when is needed it.



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## **Working on value: Equality**

This story could be rewritten to highlight trust, sharing, kindness and equality. Everyone has unique abilities and roles that contribute to the success of a group. Disrupting these roles without understanding their importance can lead to failure. Envy and dissatisfaction can disturb harmony and cause unnecessary conflict.

Listening to external opinions without critical thought can lead to decisions that harm a well-functioning system. The story emphasizes the value of equality in teamwork and the mutual respect.

# **“The mouse, the bird and the sausage”**

Once upon a time, a mouse, a bird and a sausage lived together in their house. They all maintained it together, since they were very beloved, and peace and happiness reigned in their little house, since everyone did his job. The bird's job was to fly to the forest every day and bring home wood. The mouse had to carry water from the well, light the fire and prepare the table. And the sausage had taken over the cooking. But in this world, anyone who has a good time with what they have, doesn't value it and wants to try something different. So one day the little bird happened to meet another bird in the forest, who taunted him about what a nice life he had and mocked him for working hard in the forest while his other two friends were enjoying the warmth of the house.

- You are very silly, to get so tired and carry the wood from the forest. The other two are taking advantage of you because they do easy jobs around the house, she told him.

When the little mouse lighted the fire and drew water from the well, she sat in the living room until the time she had to prepare the table. And the sausage, who was the cooker, only had to stand near the pot to watch the food being cooked. When it was time for them to dine, the sausage would go into the pot, give it a little twirl among the vegetables, and so the food would become delicious and ready for them to enjoy. Then came the little bird from the wood forest. They all sat at the table to eat and then went to their beds where they slept contentedly until the next morning.



They lived a truly beautiful life! But the next day, because he believed what his friend told him, the little bird refused to go to the forest to carry wood. He had become the servant of others for a long time, he said. It's time things to change, for everyone to do a different job for a change.

The mouse and the sausage tried to convince him, but the bird was unconvinced. Being the head of the house, he told them they should at least make an effort. So they cast lots.

The sausage took on the duty of going to the forest for wood, the little mouse to cook and the little bird to draw water from the well, light the fire and set the table.

But what was the result? The sausage started for the forest for wood. The little bird light a fire and the little mouse put the food pot on the fire. Then they both waited for the sausage to come home, with the wood for the next day. But the sausage was taking too long to appear. The other two were worried. They thought something bad was going to happen. That's why the little bird flew into the forest to see what happened to their companion.

A little beyond their little house, he met a dog. The dog had seen the sausage, had grabbed it and was eating the unhappy sausage. The little bird complained to the dog about his behavior, but nothing came of it. The dog claimed it was his right to eat the sausage since he found it on the street and was hungry!

Being sad the little bird gathered his wood alone, loaded it and took it home where he told the mouse everything he saw and heard. They were both very sad, but decided to stay together and do the best they could. And so the little bird prepared the table, while the little mouse began to cook the food.

When it was time for them to eat, the little mouse jumped into the pot, as the sausage used to do, to stir and mix the vegetables. But before he could reach the middle of the boiling juice, he was left hairless and skinless, and at last the unfortunate mouse was burned and died.

When the little bird wanted to eat, he could not find the cook, the mouse, anywhere. He left the wood on the floor and looked here and there, but the mouse had disappeared. Because he had carelessly left the wood on the floor, it caught fire and soon the whole house was on fire. The little bird ran to fetch water from the well to put out the fire. But the bucket slipped from him and fell into the well, pulling the little bird in as well. He tried to get out, but in vain! The little bird drowned in the water of the well.

This story could be rewritten to highlight trust, sharing, kindness and equality. All three heroes lived in harmony and they were happy but when the trust and kindness disappear and envy and evil appear, lives change and deteriorate.



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## **Working on value:** Equality

This story highlights the importance of the value like equality. When rewriting the story, you could emphasize the value of equality by choosing a different course.

**Author: Orally transmitted**

# **“The story of the fisherman and his wife”**

Once upon a time, a fisherman and his wife lived in a small fishing hut close to the sea. The fisherman went to the water every day and fished.

One day he pulled out a large butt from deep at the bottom. The butt said: "I'm not a real butt, I'm an enchanted prince." And he asked the fisherman to put him back in the water because he wouldn't like it. The fisherman was good enough to release the fish, but when he told his wife why he hadn't brought back a catch, she was unhappy. The fisherman was told to summon the prince and have him fulfil a wish: a small house instead of the poor hut.

The man reluctantly obeyed and went back to the sea. The water had turned green and yellow. The fisherman called out: "Little man, little man, Timpe Te, Buttje, Buttje in the sea, My wife, Ilsebill, doesn't want what I want." Then the butt swam up and the fisherman expressed his wife's wish for a little house. "Go on," said the butt, "she already has it." When the man came home, his wife was sitting in front of a beautiful little house with a garden and they were both happy.

But after a while, the wife complained that she would have preferred a large castle instead of the small cottage. So she sent her husband back to Butt and, with a heavy heart, the fisherman set off. This time the water was purple, grey and thick. The fisherman called the butt over and told him what his wife wanted. "Go ahead, she's at the door," said the butt.

When the fisherman returned home, there was a large stone palace with



servants and magnificent estates. His wife proudly showed the fisherman around and he said that they should be happy now. "Let's think about that," replied the woman. The next morning, she thought the man should be king. The humble fisherman did not want to be king, but his wife sent him to the butt so that she could become queen. Depressed, the man went to the sea and thought it was not right. The water was all black-grey and stank foul. The fisherman called the butt over and expressed his wife's wish. "Go on, she's already there," said the butt.

When the man came home, the palace was much bigger, his wife was sitting on a golden throne and was surrounded by her court. "Oh woman, how wonderful that you are now king! Now we don't want to wish for anything more." But the woman now wanted to become empress and would not rest until the man set off again. The sea was black and thick and foaming. The fisherman was terrified when he summoned the butt and told him his wife's wish. "Go ahead," said the butt, "she's already there."

When the man came home, his wife was empress. But that was still not enough for her, she also wanted to become pope. With trembling knees, the fisherman went to the sea. The water was boiling and dark clouds chased across the sky. The butt granted this wish too and when the fisherman returned home, there stood a large church surrounded by palaces. His wife was dressed all in gold and kings and emperors were awestruck. So now she was pope, but she was still not satisfied, she wanted to become like the good Lord. The man begged her to desist, but she became so angry that he fled in fear. The sky was pitch black, a huge storm was raging and the sea was throwing up towering black waves. The fisherman cried out against the forces of nature and when the butt appeared, he told him that his wife wanted to become like the good Lord. The butt said: "Go on, she's already back in the fisherman's hut."

So the fisherman and his wife were back in the miserable little hut.



## **Working on value: Equality**

In this story, love is hindered by social status and the expectations we have of each other, whether it's a maternal bond, pressure from society or the feelings that command our attitudes. equality can be explored and it's possible to rewrite the story imagining that it takes place in the present day and not in the time of the princesses.

Hans Christian Andersen

# “The Princess and the Pea”

Once upon a time, there was a prince who wanted to marry a real princess. He travelled all over the world, but no matter where he went, he couldn't find one. Something always seemed wrong with the princesses he met.

One stormy night, a young woman knocked on the door of the prince's castle. She was soaked from the rain, and her clothes were muddy, but she claimed to be a real princess. The queen, suspicious, decided to test her.

That night, the queen placed a tiny pea under twenty mattresses and twenty feather beds in the guest room. She told the princess to sleep there and see how comfortable she was.

The next morning, the princess came down to breakfast, looking tired and sore. “I couldn't sleep at all,” she said. “There was something hard in the bed, and it kept me up all night!”

The queen smiled, knowing only a true princess could feel a tiny pea through so many layers of bedding. The prince was thrilled—he had finally found a real princess! They were married, and the pea was put on display in the royal museum.



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