

## **Brilliant Idea #1**

### **Telling and Re-telling Stories**

We all know stories, our own and ones we've heard, and we can all get better at telling them. So here's an idea.

Invite people to join a storytelling circle: five or six might be enough to get started, but it could grow. Each day, one person calls one other person to tell them a story. It might be an old one (a fairy story or an old myth), one they've read or seen (a favourite book or film), something personal (a childhood memory or a first love perhaps). It might be entirely made up, with aliens, dragons or gangsters: it doesn't matter. The second person calls the third to tell them the same story, in their own words, adjusting it as they wish. And so it goes round until the story comes back to the person who first told it, embellished, cut, transformed, renewed. Next day, the second person in the circle starts the story. It doesn't have to be by phone, of course: it could be done over the garden fence, two metres apart. But there's something intimate about the voice in your ear that might give us confidence to tell richer, better, truer stories. No one will overhear us.

Thank you to Francois Matarasso for this wonderful idea.