

Learning Scenario

Thinking outside the box: There is always an(other) option

BASIC EDUCATION

5-15 PARTICIPANTS

15-20 MINUTES

BASIC EDUCATION LEARNERS

Language level at least **B1** recommended

It is important for the collection of options to be able to express oneself and explain in a differentiated way

INFORMAL SETTING

with trusting open atmosphere in the group

OBJECTIVES:

- To strengthen the positive and creative thinking of learners
- To encourage and motivate learners to think outside the box.
- To motivate and guide learners to think about probabilities.
- To show learners that there can be solutions even in seemingly hopeless situations.
- To motivate learners to take the "moral" with them into their everyday life

PURPOSE

Critical
Thinking



LOCATION

Relaxed atmosphere
No further specific
requirements

STORY

Two Pebbles

MATERIAL

Some pebbles (black & white) and a small bag can be used to support the storytelling

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DESCRIPTION

- The teacher tells the beginning of the story up to the point where the loan shark proposes his deal (pebbles brought along can be used for illustration)

Questions to the group:

- What is the probability for the daughter to get the "right" pebble?
- Do you think this is a fair offer and why?

- The teacher continues the story up to the point where the daughter sees that the loan shark puts two black pebbles in the little bag (illustration with pebbles brought along)

Questions to the group:

- What is the probability of a happy ending for the daughter now?
- What can she do?

Collecting options together

- The teacher summarises the options again and continues the story until the moment when the daughter drops the chosen pebble

Questions to the group:

- Why does she do this?
- What does she get out of it?

Only listen to and **collect options**, do not comment on them

- The teacher finishes the story (illustration with pebbles brought along), without the "moral" - **Question**: what does this have to do with us, with you? - Discussion of the "moral"

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TIPS & TRICKS FOR THE TEACHERS

- Duration depends very much on the size of the group, their creativity and willingness to discuss, their openness to talk about their own situations
- When re-entering the story, always briefly retell the part where you left off in order to pick up and involve the listeners again.

ALTERNATIVE IMPLEMENTATIONS / POSSIBLE ADAPTATIONS

The story can also be used to strengthen **Creativity and Expression**. Then learners should be given more space to tell their own version of the progression and solution at the different stop points of the story, e.g. in pair work.



YOUR COMMENTS & ADDITIONS



Two Pebbles



Italy

Purpose(s)



Critical Thinking



Creativity & Expression

In a small Italian town, hundreds of years ago, a small business owner owed a large sum of money to a loan-shark. The loan-shark was a very old, unattractive looking guy that just so happened to fancy the business owner's daughter.

He decided to offer the businessman a deal that would completely wipe out the debt he owed him. However, the catch was that we would only wipe out the debt if he could marry the businessman's daughter. Needless to say, this proposal was met with a look of disgust.

The loan-shark said that he would place two pebbles into a bag, one white and one black. The daughter would then have to reach into the bag and pick out a pebble. If it was black, the debt would be wiped, but the loan-shark would then marry her. If it was white, the debt would also be wiped, but the daughter wouldn't have to marry the loan-shark.

Standing on a pebble-strewn path in the businessman's garden, the loan-shark bent over and picked up two pebbles. Whilst he was picking them up, the daughter noticed that he'd picked up two black pebbles and placed them both into the bag.

He then asked the daughter to reach into the bag and pick one. The daughter naturally had three choices as to what she could have done:

Refuse to pick a pebble from the bag.

Take both pebbles out of the bag and expose the loan-shark for cheating.



Pick a pebble from the bag fully well knowing it was black and sacrifice herself for her father's freedom.

She drew out a pebble from the bag, and before looking at it 'accidentally' dropped it into the midst of the other pebbles. She said to the loan-shark: "Oh, how clumsy of me. Never mind, if you look into the bag for the one that is left, you will be able to tell which pebble I picked."

The pebble left in the bag is obviously black, and seeing as the loan-shark didn't want to be exposed, he had to play along as if the pebble the daughter dropped was white, and clear her father's debt.

Source/Link:

<https://wealthygorilla.com/10-most-inspirational-short-stories/>

