

Learning Scenario

See the special!

STORY
COMP

BASIC EDUCATION

5-15 PARTICIPANTS

30-45 MINUTES

BASIC EDUCATION LEARNERS

Language level at least **B1** recommended,
at least for the appreciation activity

INFORMAL OR
NON-FORMAL SETTING

OBJECTIVES:

- To motivate and activate the learners to put themselves in a certain situation curiously and with all their senses
- To motivate and activate the participants to tell and embellish a story together
- To sensitise and motivate learners to recognise their own particularities as strengths
- To animate and motivate learners to see and express what is special about their fellows.
- To strengthen the learners' self-esteem and curiosity

PURPOSE

Empower-
ment



LOCATION

Cosy, informal, perhaps
slightly oriental room
(colours, light, scent,
seating, possibly tea ...)

STORY

Ali Thumb

MATERIAL

None

Learning Scenario

See the special!

DESCRIPTION

- The teacher tells the story
- Participants take Ali's perspective: Ali has just managed to convince his parents to let him go off with his father and has slipped into his father's shirt pocket.
 - What does he see/hear/smell/experience from that moment on?
 - What new things does he experience and learn?
 - What is particularly interesting/exciting?

The participants are asked to tell together this part of the story from Ali's point of view again and in more detail
=> arouse curiosity for new things, for challenging things, for adventures, for the world ...

- Your Ali moment: The special thing about Ali is his appearance - only through it was it possible for him to perform his act of rescue. Each of us has special qualities, something special in his or her personality or is particularly good at something. What is it with you? – Each participants write it down for themselves.
- Appreciation activity: Either in groups of two or in the whole group, the participants tell each other what they think the other person is particularly good at or what is special about him/her.
- If the group and time allow, they could also tell the personal Ali moment as a spontaneous story

(Example: There is a young man who has a great voice and likes to sing. This could be a story for/about him: In the evening everyone sat together, ate and drank well and in the relaxed atmosphere he dared to sing in front of an audience for the first time. At first only at his table, but suddenly the conversations at the next table and then further on at the next table fell silent and everyone listened moved. After the last note, it remained completely silent for a moment. But then the applause broke out ...)

Learning Scenario

See the special!

TIPS & TRICKS FOR THE TEACHERS

- An atmosphere of openness, familiarity and trust in the group is necessary for the participants to open up to the exercise.
- The exercise is suitable for an existing group, the participants should already know each other.
- The teacher needs a high level of confidence in telling the story in order to really bring the participants along

ALTERNATIVE IMPLEMENTATIONS / POSSIBLE ADAPTATIONS



The story can also be used to strengthen
Critical Thinking / Multiple Perspectives



Questions/topics addressed

- What is "normal"? What is "different"?
- How do we (personally and as a society) deal with "differentness"?
- What is the (personal/societal) added value of diversity?

Possible procedure

- the teacher tells the story
- question to the participants: What touched you most?
- discussion in 3 groups (also feasible as partner work):
 - Perspective of parents: protecting the child, ashamed of the "abnormal" child, pride in the child ...
 - Perspective of Ali Thumb: restriction of having to stay at home, curiosity about the world, first journey, courage to speak out against the thieves, real encounter with other people, pride of parents ...
 - Perspective of others guests: Fear of the supposed "ghost", admiration for saviour Ali, no fear of contact with the "different"...

Learning Scenario

See the special!

ALTERNATIVE IMPLEMENTATIONS (CONTINUED)

- back in the whole group: One or more representatives of the group tell the story to the class from the appropriate perspective, as if they had just experienced it (for example, from the perspective of the other guests: "Yesterday I experienced something totally crazy. I was sitting with friends in the caravanserai in the evening and then ...". - Enable changes of perspective)
- Reflection on the different perspectives and corresponding attitudes/desires/fears: Where does each individual find him/herself?

YOUR COMMENTS & ADDITIONS





Ali Thumb



Turkey

Purpose(s)



Empowerment



Multiple Perspectives

Once upon the time, a couple had a baby boy whom they called Ali. The baby came as a surprise to his parents no bigger than a thumb! The mother and father were both very upset at first, but then they thought to themselves, 'This is what God has given us, and one day our son will grow up to be a big, strong boy.'

But the years passed and Ali did not grow at all. He remained as little as a thumb. Every evening at dinner, the mother would set a place at the table for her son. She would place a tiny plate in front of him and fill it with a teaspoon full of soup. Ali also had a tiny cup which his mother filled with a single drop of water.

Everything was fine when the family were at home, but the mother and father were ashamed of their son, thinking that if anybody saw him they would tease the young boy. So they always kept him indoors.



Many more years passed, and eventually Ali celebrated his twentieth birthday. He was still as little as a thumb, but his voice had grown very deep and very loud. In fact, it was like the voice of a giant man. Ali was a very sad young man because he had no friends and had to spend all of his time at home.

One day, Ali's father was getting ready to go to the market in the next town. He planned on spending the night in a caravanserai because he would not be able to make the journey there and back before nightfall.

Ali asked his father to take him to the journey too, but his father looked very anxious at the idea. 'We never took you out until this day and I am not sure that I can do it now,' he said. 'How can I protect you and hide you from other people?'

'It will be easy,' answered Ali in his deep voice. 'You can keep me in your pocket and nobody will ever know I am there. You can make a little hole in the pocket so I can breathe and see what is going on and enjoy all the new sites of the world.'

Ali's father realised how excited Ali was at the idea of leaving the house, and because of this he couldn't say no to his only son. The old man made a very small hole in his shirt pocket and helped Ali to climb inside. The mother handed over the bags for the journey and wished them good luck. Then Ali and his father set off towards the market in the neighbouring town.

After travelling all day, Ali and his father came to the caravanserai. 'We will get ourselves a room here for the night,' said the father, 'and tomorrow we will go to the market early in the morning.'

'I cannot believe I will stay in a caravanserai!' said Ali. He was very excited because he had already seen so much on his journey and he had never slept anywhere apart from his home.

Ali's father paid for a room and took his bags up to the room. After the old man had unpacked and washed, and with Ali still hidden in his pocket, he went down to the dining room.

Then something quite unexpected happened. Just as all of guests had seated themselves for dinner, a group of thieves entered the caravanserai. They pointed guns and gave orders that every man and woman should give their money and any valuables they had. All of the guests were very scared but they did as they were told and began reaching for their wallets and jewellery, placing them on the tables to be collected by the thieves.



Suddenly, there was a very loud and very deep voice from out of nowhere. 'Drop your guns!' commanded the voice. 'I am coming in there and I am going to catch you and give you over to the police.' Nobody knew where the voice was coming from. The thieves looked all around the dining room but could not see anyone. Then the voice came again, even louder this time. 'I will make sure that you spend many years in prison.'

Because the thieves could not tell where the voice was coming from, they convinced themselves that it must belong to a ghost. And if there was one thing the thieves were scared of even more than the police, it was ghosts.

All of a sudden, the thieves dropped their guns and ran from the caravanserai and disappeared into the night. Even though the guests were happy that the robbers had fled, they too were afraid of ghosts and wanted to run away to their rooms and hide.

'Do not worry,' said Ali's father. 'It is not a ghost that is talking. It is my son.' And the old man reached into his pocket so that Ali could climb into his hand. Then he placed Ali gently down on the table so that all of the guests might say hello.





'I am sure the robbers will not return,' said Ali in his deep, booming voice, a big smile on his face. The guests were very surprised and very curious to meet a boy who was no bigger than a thumb. But they were all very grateful to Ali for saving them from the thieves, and they thanked him and shook his hand and said to his father how proud he must be to have such a brave son.

In the morning, as they left the caravanserai for the market, Ali's father took his little son out of his pocket and placed him up on his shoulder. All morning at the market, and then on the way home, the old man had to stop many times to introduce Ali to people. And he was very proud and told them all how his son had saved everybody from the three thieves.

When father and son arrived home that evening, Ali's mother looked very worried that Ali was sitting up on her husband's shoulder. 'What if somebody should see him?' she asked. But the old man smiled and explained to his wife what adventures they had experienced at the caravanserai, and how Ali had saved the day and scared off the thieves.

'It has been a great mistake to be ashamed of our son. We should not have kept him hidden in the house for all these years. We should be proud of Ali and all of the things that he is capable of doing.'

Ali's mother was indeed very proud when she heard the story of her son's bravery, and promised never to hide him away or be ashamed ever again.

Ever since that day, Ali Thumb has always travelled on his parents' shoulders wherever they go, and he has seen and done many things and had many adventures.

