# 3D Learning Mini-Methods - Story Whoosh

A great activity for story exploration and reflection. It involves all class members and is a fast paced and effective way of covering all main events in a narrative, be it fiction or a non-fiction, topic-based narrative arc for say, History or R.E.

Note: You will need to identify all the key story points prior to this activity in order to scaffold it effectively. You can do this as part of your planning or with your class.

Method:

1. Ask the students to stand in a circle and explain that the area inside the circle is now their stage – the world of the story they are about to tell.

2. Tell students that you will be inviting them to enter the space as the characters in each story point. When they enter, they will either become a part of the scenery you have described or will mime the actions of a character as you describe the action.

3. Explain that when you say "Whoosh!", everyone must clear the space, returning to their place in the circle. You will then move on to the next story point.

4. Now walk around the circle, reading out the first story point e.g. "Once there was a young girl called Little Red Riding Hood". Tap a student on the shoulder as you say the character name. That student should then move into the circle to mime the character.

5. Continue with your first story point, building the scene in the circle, i.e. "She lived in a house". Tap two students who enter to form a house; "with her mother": tap another student to enter and mime motherly actions; "in the middle of a forest": tap 5 students who will enter and form aspects of a forest within the circle.

6. Now say "whoosh" and all students inside the circle will return to their places in the circle.

7. Continue through each story point in this manner.

8. You might want to step into the circle during specific scenes and interview characters as to how they feel, what they've seen, etc or whisper key lines of dialogue or quotes for them to repeat as the character.

9. Reflect at the end as to what they have seen or experienced.

## Why This Works

Story Whoosh helps children remember a story's narrative arc because it turns each plot moment into a short, physical, shared episode that they enact, reset, and move on from. This embodied, multi-sensory participation strengthens memory, while the repeated "Whoosh!" transitions emphasise sequencing and cause-and-effect. By taking roles, creating environments, and anticipating the next moment, children stay emotionally and cognitively engaged, making the structure of the story far easier to recall.