



LIVES INTO STORY

Nicola Grove
Robin Meader
Open storytellers

About Robin

- I am one of the first members of Openstorytellers -since 2004
- I work telling stories, drawing pictures to support people, and with Somerset Advocacy
- I am an artist illustrator with my own business- graphic facilitation at conferences and courses
- I use my life story to teach staff in social services



About Nicola

- I was a teacher and then a speech therapist
- I set up Openstorytellers
- Now I do research, training and storytelling



Openstorytellers

- A charity based in Frome, Somerset
- Enriching lives through the sharing of stories
- Projects in schools and community
- Day services and training
- Founded in 2004
- charity 2009



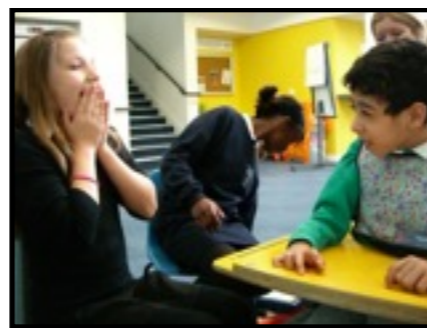
www.openstorytellers.org.uk



Myths & legends



Life history & biography



Everyday



All kinds of stories...from all over the world



Where do stories come from?



Handed down from the sky - as an ancient story tells us

or

Arising out of the way friends and family share experiences

What stories do for us

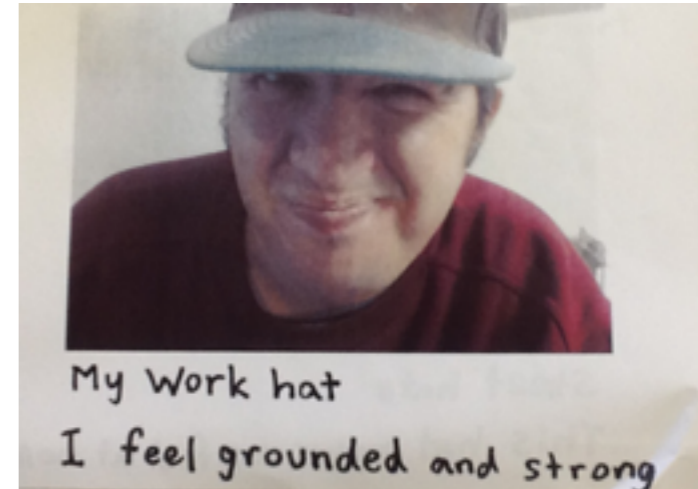
friends



memories



who we are

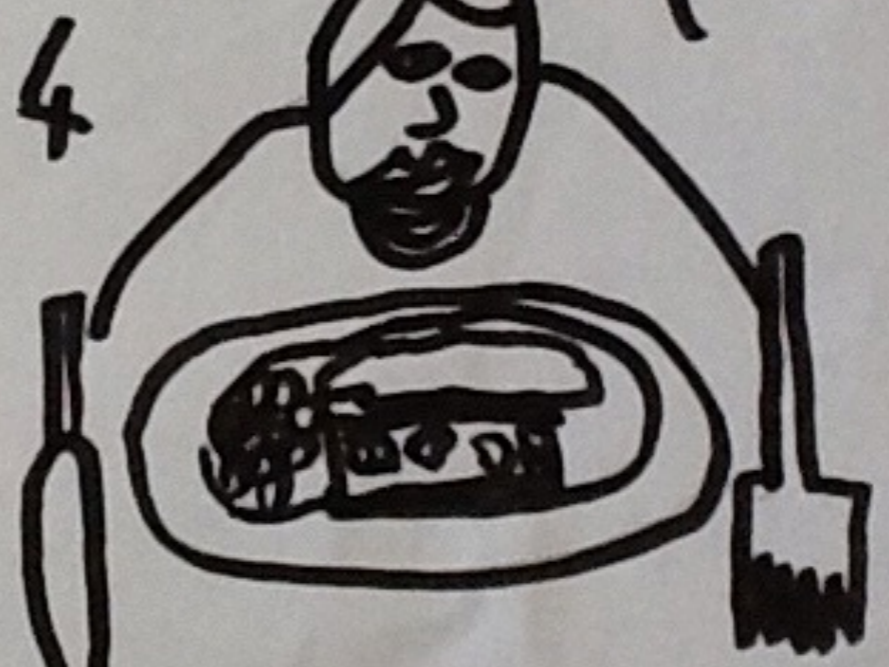


making sense



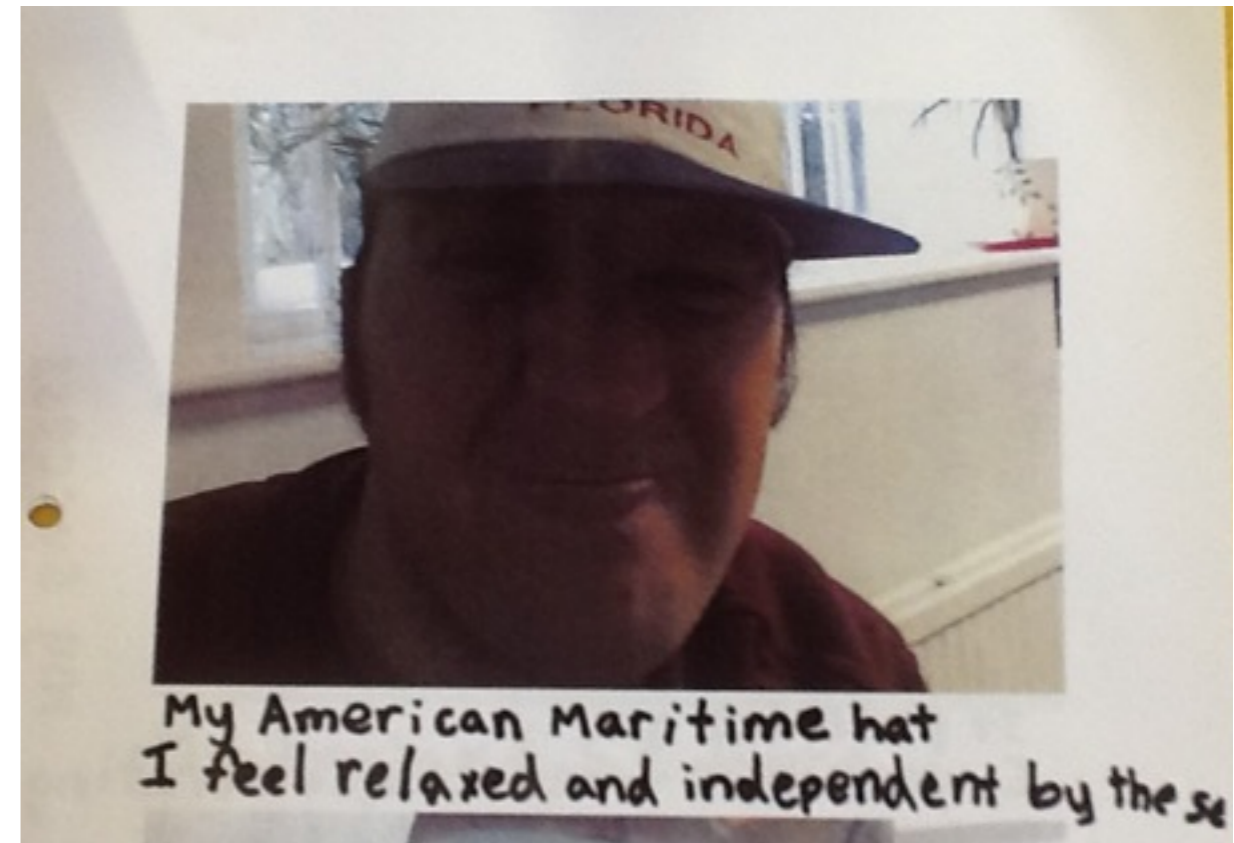
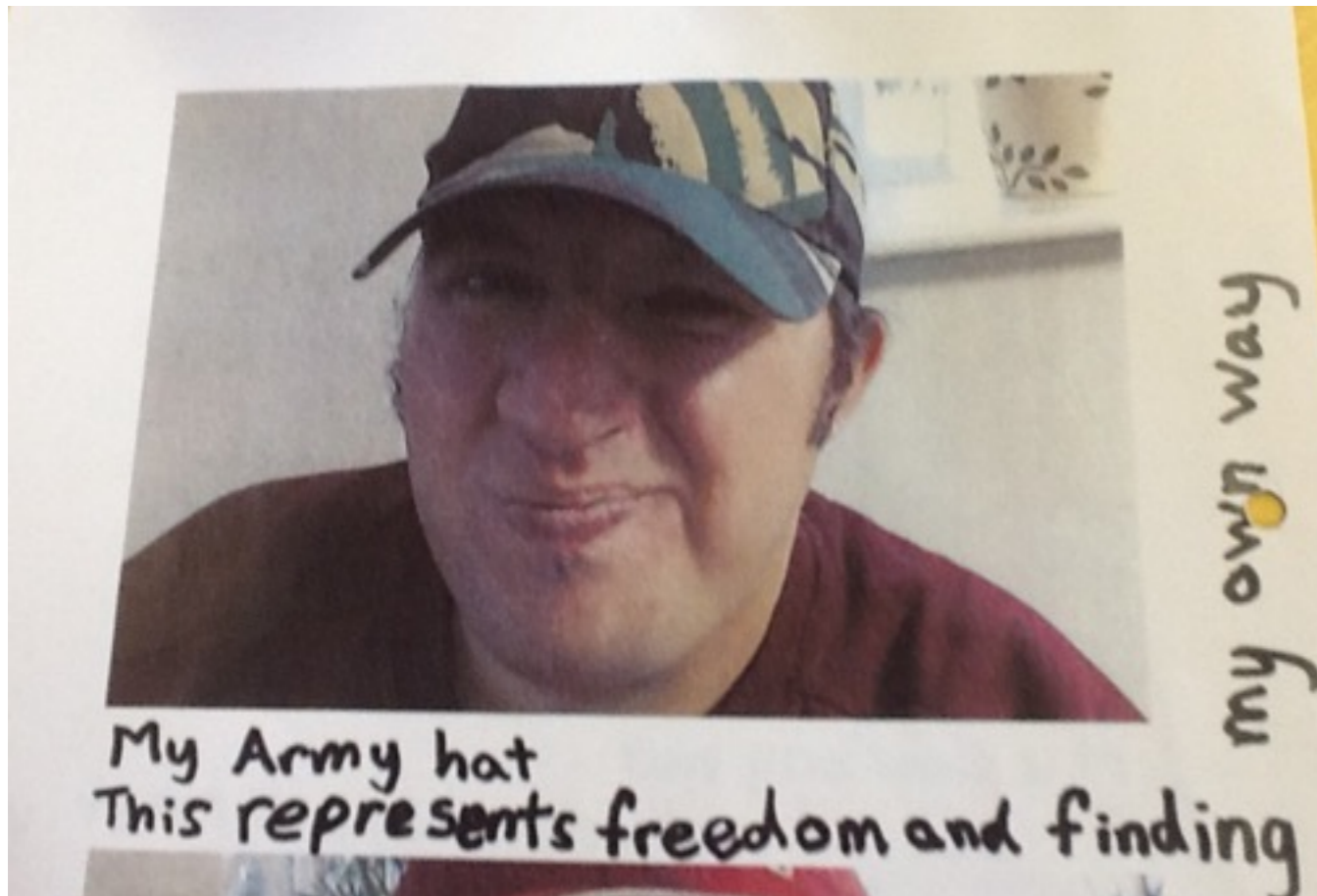
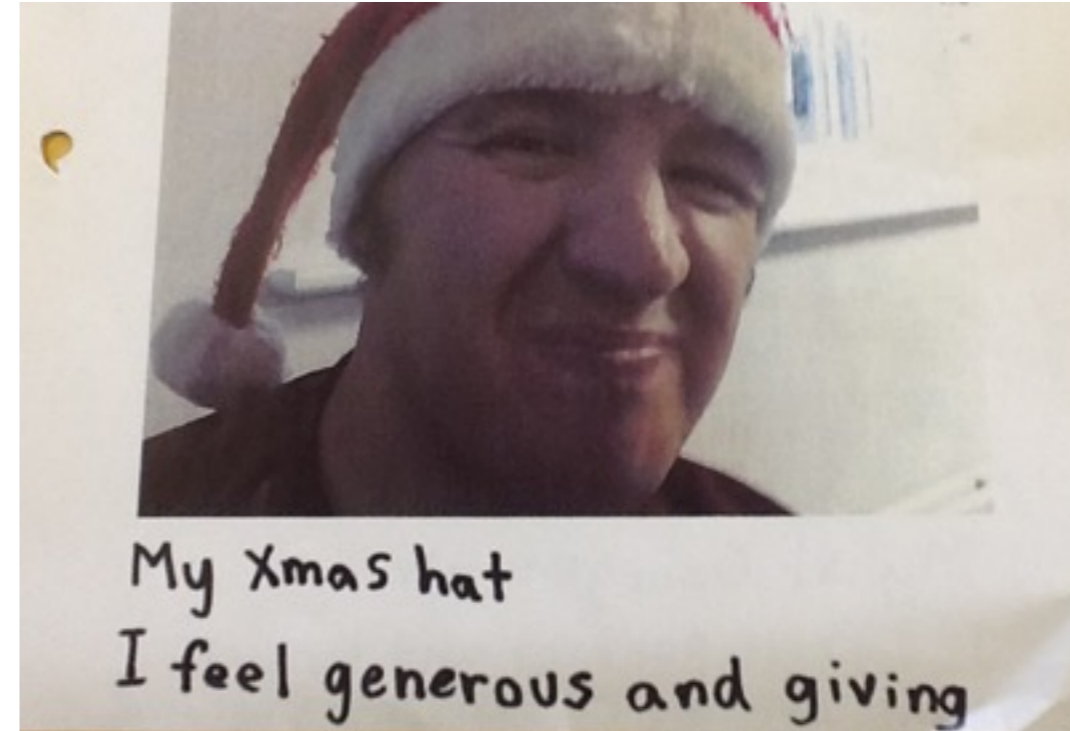
possibilities

Frist trip to Hospital



Shared experiences

Identity- the hats we wear



every hat tells a specific story from Robin's life...

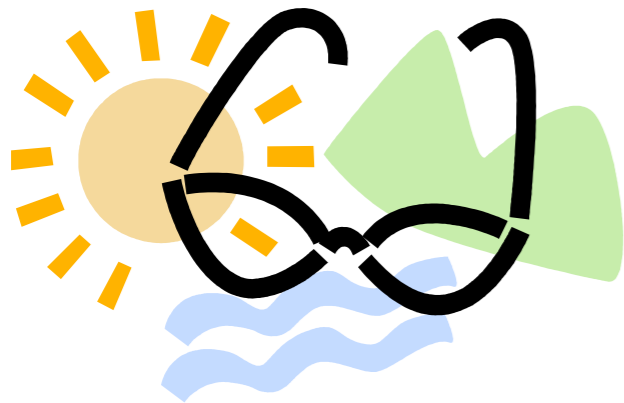
I can honestly say,
there are no stories to tell you
from her life

Brother of group member

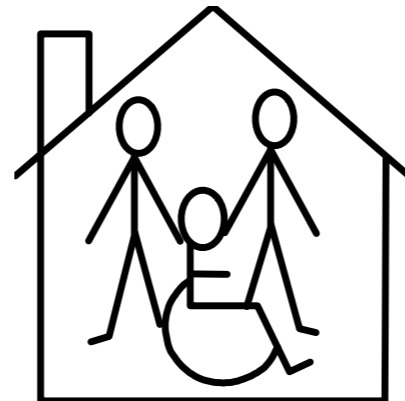
Grove, N, (2007) Exploring the absence of high points in story
reminiscence with carers of people with profound disabilities

Journal of Policy and Practice in Intellectual Disabilities, 4, 252-259

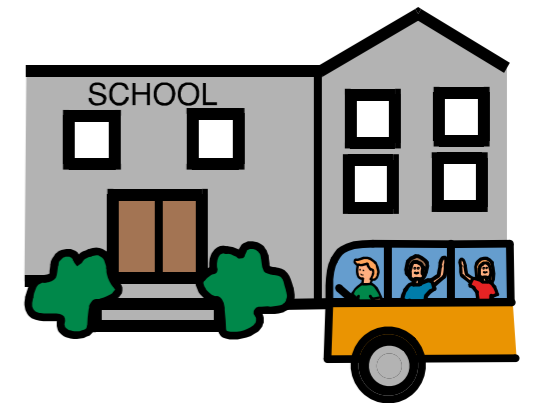
Nazreen's Life Story book



Holidays 20%



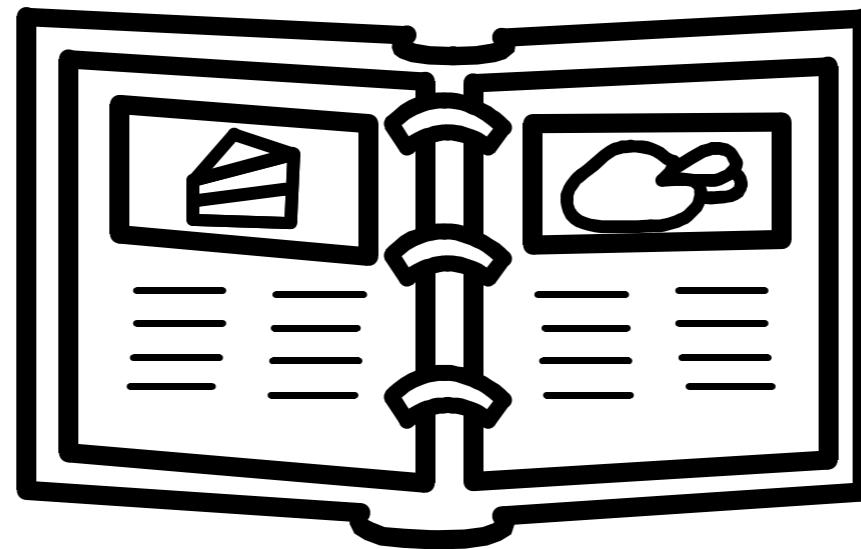
Where I used to live
54%



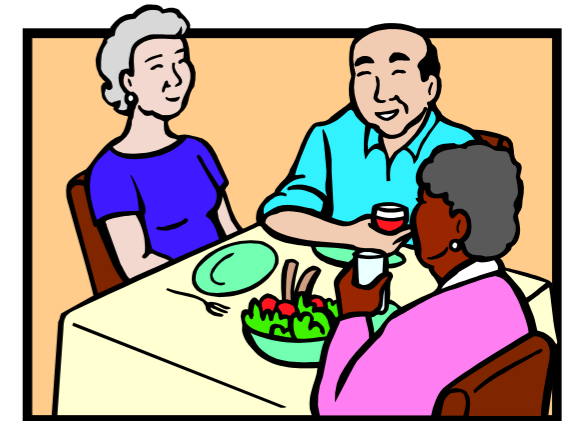
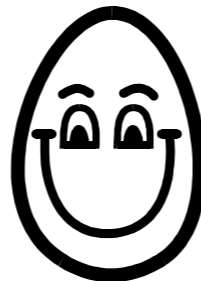
Education 15%



My early life 12%



Likes & dislikes 7%



People I live with 13%

28 artefacts, mostly cards

Study of communication acts in a day centre

- 15 care staff with 5 verbal, 5 nonverbal people
- Structured and Unstructured sessions
- 70% + interactions in structured sessions, more than 2/3 to verbal people
- *Directives & Information transfer* predominate
- More *directives* and *social closeness (phatics)* with nonverbal people
- No stories with either group
(McHutchison, 2006)

The **BIG BOOK** of **Storysharing**

A handbook of personal storytelling for those who live
and work with children and young people who have severe
communication difficulties



STORYSHARING®

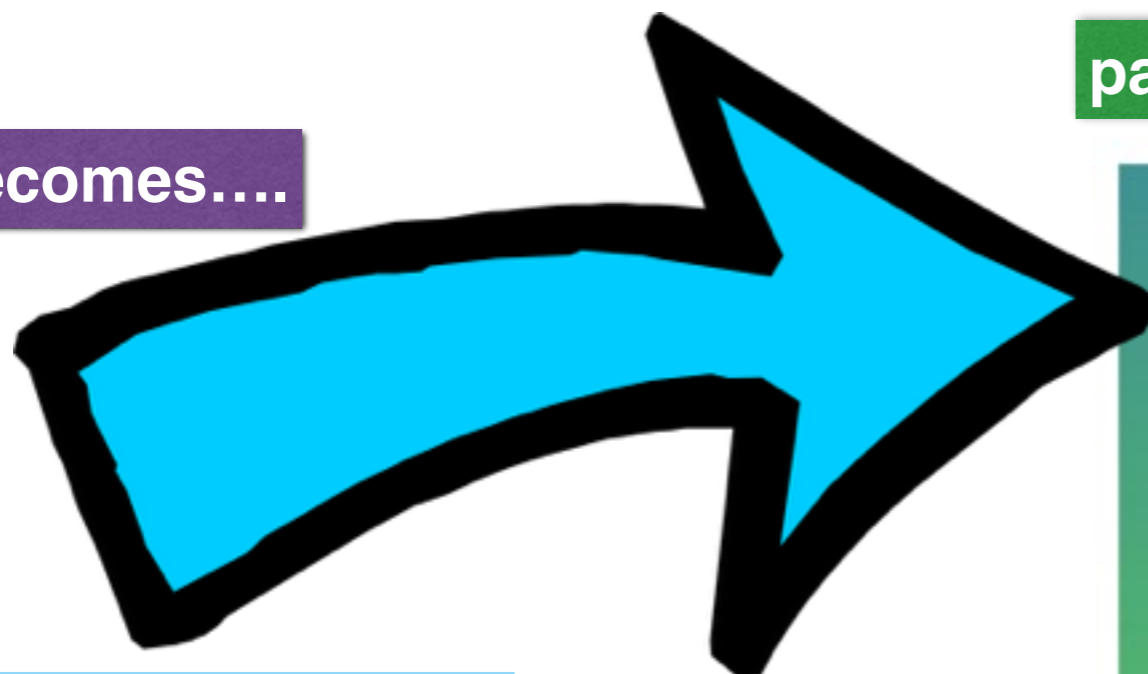
- A framework for finding and sharing personal experience narratives with friends, family, staff and paid workers
- Using a social, collaborative model
- Focus on identity, friendship, active participation and listening
- +++Communication, Confidence, +++Staff skills in supporting real conversation

15 years of research:

project 2015 -2018 capacity building and accredited training

part of the big Life Story

becomes....



...with a mythic flavour!

A small story.....

Once upon a time, there was a boy
calledJack



And they lived happily every after....

A hero with ASD?



*and a girl
who is Deaf and dumb*

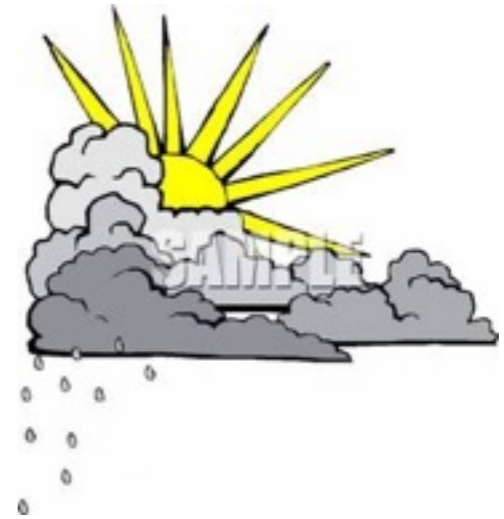
R. Meader © 2011

15th C Flemish painting Anonymous

People with
Down
syndrome have
always been
with us... and
often been
valued for
themselves



I think that everyone in the world has the need to have a story, or we would be under a dark cloud



Sometimes people had a good story and something got in their way, like bullying, politics, anti-social behaviour or unhappy relationships.

We sort out problems in stories and this can help us.

I was like Aladdin he always had to do a lot of washing, but one day he discovered he wanted to go somewhere he could find a magic lamp, and it's like me, feel like I really want to go out to a place to visit like a castle or a cave or something



...and as he rubs the lamp a genie comes out with the three wishes, it reminds me of wanting to get a job and make a lot of money....And then he falls in love with this girl and becomes rich, and to me it makes me feel like I want to go out in the world and talk to people.

Do come to our workshop...



Thank you for listening