

Lis'n Tell:

live inclusive storytelling

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Core Principle 1 : *The Significant Object (TSO)*

'What is it? Whose is it?

Where is it from?'

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An intrinsic part of Lis'n Tell is to find the right rhythm, objects, words, context and story that appeal to the participant(s) who of course, may not be participating to begin with! These are broadly referred to as significant objects (Coigley 2021) . TSO has another aspect - as an exercise in imagination and an application of flexibility of approach that Lis'n Tell is founded on. The verse that accompanies this aspect is:

'What is it? Whose is it?

Where is it from?'

which I composed in 1993 while working as an NHS Speech and Language Therapist at Beverley School for the Deaf in Middlesbrough.

Adults who attend my trainings in Lis'n Tell learn this exercise in order to practise their own storytelling skills. They pick a quirky or everyday object, individually or in small groups and spontaneously form answers to these questions. They then realise they have composed a mini-narrative! It edges in to the experience and use of different significant objects, while exercising the imagination.

The verse has a strong rhythm : *What* is it, *whose* is it, *where* is it from? with the stress on the first word of each question. This rhythmical aspect can support the memory of the questions and the order they are presented in. Sometimes a fourth question is added: ' and *how* did I/we come by it?', depending on the numbers in the group/ time available/ skills available - if it is being done by children or adults with speech, language and communication needs: SLCN).

SLTs, Teachers, Assistants, Storytellers, Theatre in Education Practitioners, Carers and Parents also use this 'What is it? Whose is it? Where is it from?' exercise with classes of pupils and individuals. I am infinitely grateful to the deaf children who prompted me to form these questions in the first place, as a way to reach and develop their storytelling capacities.

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