



Stories of the Future

Character-led storytelling (CLS) with Emily Spiers (FLiNT: Futures Literacy through Narrative)
This hand-out provides an example of a CLS workshop on the futures of climate change

Overview

In this workshop, we will be exploring the future through the eyes of a fictional character you create. In the workshop, you will be asked to introduce your character and then we will flesh out the world you all inhabit together. We will be imagining the world of **2040**. What do you hope has changed in this time? What has stayed the same? What impact has climate change had on your home and the way you live and work?

The questions this method poses are as follows:

- Do we imagine the future differently when doing so through the eyes of another, imaginary person?
- What new, previously hidden, insights into the world might character work provide us with?
- How might the ensuing scenarios have a particular impact on the audiences engaging with them?

The Creative part:

We will follow the steps below. If possible, please sketch down your thoughts on Stages 1 and 2 before the first workshop.

1. Stage 1: Create a fictional character

- Give your character a name and an age
- Make your character a fully fleshed-out human being by:
 - 1) Giving your character a backstory
 - 2) Giving your character something to believe in, i.e. clear motivations

— Whenever possible, avoid clichés

2. Stage 2: Working at greater depth - create a character profile. Make notes on elements such as:

- Where your character was born and grew up
- What your character's political, philosophical or religious views are
- Your character's greatest fears and desires
- What your character is most proud and most ashamed of
- What your character values and dislikes most in others
- If you like, introduce minor characters to challenge or support your main character
- Consider sayings or physical mannerisms that your character uses – these should be consistent with your character's background and psychology

3. Stage 3: Building a World using the VERGE framework (Lum 2015, we will do this together)

- Define – what is it like to live in this world?
- Relate – how do people relate to one another?
- Connect – how do people travel and communicate?
- Create – what new things emerge?
- Consume – how are products / services consumed?
- Destroy – what no longer has a place in this world?

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Thank you so much for taking part!