

Welcome to **Love Stories for the Earth!**

### **About the show**



*'To understand the mysteries of the natural world is the beginnings of a love affair. You can't love something unless you know something of the way that system works.'*

Love Stories for the Earth will lure children away from screens and into nature, hearing stories of acorn and bramble, asking questions, having adventures, getting muddy hands and knees.

Each story opens up questions for children about our planet and the way we look after it. Children will explore the ways that their ideas and actions can make a difference as they begin their love affair with the earth.

Look at a [trailer](#) for the show here!



### **What the children will experience on the day**

The children will come into the story space, meet the storyteller and find their own patch of earth to sit on for the duration of the story, look at it and get to know it a little.

Depending on the length of the session, they will listen to one, or maybe two interactive stories with magnificent props including a crankie (a kind of scrolling picture book), assorted puppets and natural objects. There will be rhymes and actions to join in with, ideas and questions to contribute. Each story is linked to one of the UN Sustainable Development Goals, in a light-touch way appropriate to the children's experience: the discussion will invite children's ideas and thoughts, rather than loading them with information.

After the story, there will be a simple activity exploring natural objects or the environment. The session can be extended into a workshop, where the children use felt and other natural craft materials to turn a stick or another natural object into a story character, which can be used to improvise a story.

### **For the sessions I need:**

An outdoor space with shade available (I can bring the session inside if necessary)

Adults to support the activities. It would also be very helpful for my own evaluation of the project if an adult can write a few notes to record interesting or surprising things the children say or do during the session.

### **After the session**

Before the day, I will send you information about the stories I will be telling, the associated UN Sustainable Development Goals and the possible learning that might come out of the session, in case educators would like to incorporate it into their planning.



### **Feedback**

It's always good to know how people feel about a session! If the children enjoy the the stories and they spark ideas and creative responses in the moment, I would love to know about this!

I would also be really interested to find out if any further learning comes out of the session: whether you take the ideas from the session on in new and inspiring ways: whether they open up conversation about climate issues: or make any difference in your classroom in any other way.

I would be really grateful if a member of staff from each group could take five minutes to fill in this quick [feedback form](#): it will help me evaluate the project and improve the sessions.

Thank you!

Marion

[www.marionleeperstoryteller.co.uk](http://www.marionleeperstoryteller.co.uk)

## **Love Stories for the Earth: the stories**

### **1 Persimmon Boy (Japan)**

The story of the boy with a tree on his head.

Is it good or bad to have an empty head? A story about ideas and where they come from.

Tree bark/fruit: an autumn story

[Goal 9; Having new ideas: industry and innovation](#)

### **2 A Dress for the Moon (Jewish)**

The moon says she can only come and play with the sun if she has a dress to wear. Are the sun and moon treating each other fairly? How could they get along better?

Primroses/buttercups: a spring story

[Goal 5, treating each other fairly: gender equality](#)

### **3 Food from the Sky (Nigeria)**

Sky food tastes so good: but what happens when the people take too much?

Bluebells/forget-me-nots: a spring story

[Goal 12 Taking just enough: responsible consumption](#)

### **4 General Yak (Korea)**

Buddha and his friends make seeds to plant on the earth. But General Yak makes a big mistake. Or is it such a mistake?

Nettles: a spring story

[Goal 15, Life on land](#)

### **5 Owl and the birds (Greek)**

Owl tells the birds not to make a mess: but are they going to listen? What could possibly go wrong?

Lime blossom: a summer story

[Goal 11, Living together: Sustainable communities](#)

### **6 The first sail (Marshall Islands)**

Ten brothers racing each other in their canoes: but who will take their mother on board?

Running water: a summer story

[Goal 7: Clean energy](#)

### **7 The cracked jar (Asia)**

A conversation between a water jar and its cracked fellow: which one does the most important job?

Columbine: early summer

Goal 6: [access to clean water](#)

### **8 The Happy Man's Shirt (UK)**

How can a new shirt cure the king's gloom?

Knapweed: summer

Goal 3 [Good health and well-being](#)

### **9 The Hedley Kow (UK)**

What happens when the poor old woman finds a pot full of gold coins?

Shepherd's purse: summer

Goal 10 Rich and poor, [reduced inequality](#)

### **10 The injured seal (UK)**

Why does the fisherman hate the seals? And what does the stranger in the long coat want from him?

Razor shell: summer

Goal 14 Life Below water: [conserve oceans and use sustainably](#)

### **11 Chicken Licken (UK)**

The story of the brave bird who saw that something was wrong and went to tell someone about it.

Acorn: autumn

Goal 13 [Climate Action](#)

### **12 Washerwoman and Lakshmi (India)**

What do you do if Poverty comes to live in your house? Is there any way of getting her to leave?

Honesty/ [soapwort](#): autumn

Goal 1 [No poverty](#)

### **13 Cat Mouse and Conker (UK)**

Cat and Mouse agree on what to do with their treasure trove of shiny conkers. But will cat keep her side of the bargain?

Conkers: autumn

Goal 17: [Getting along together](#)

### **14 Magpie's nest (UK)**

The birds try to tell old Mrs. Magpie how to build a nest. But will she listen?

Bird's nest: a spring story

Goal 4, [Quality Education](#)

### **15 Yan Tan Tethera**

*'Can I borrow a cow?' Is that a fair question? Do the fairy people keep their bargains?*

*Catkins: winter*

[Goal 16 Peace and justice](#)

### **16 The Fat Cat (Denmark)**

*'Why are you so fat, my little cat?' What will happen if the cat goes on eating?*

*Feather: winter*

[Goal 2 Enough to eat](#)

### **17 Hats for the Jizo**

*Even though the old man and the old woman are always working, they can't make enough money to buy food. But then a kind deed makes all the difference.*

*dry grass: winter*

[Goal 8 Being able to work](#)