In this world today we have encountered numerous events that have been causing issues all around the world, even just our nation feels torn apart or shattered. The need for unity among others plays an important role for not only now but for the future, but with many events causing issues, confusion, and difference, it becomes very difficult to find a common thread among people who simply want peace. Storytelling has been around for over hundreds if not thousands of years and has brought people together in its informative way. Even the simple act of sharing creatives a positive atmosphere around others because at times allows them to be a part of something they want or have not tried. In my research I will be going on the effects of stories and how something so little brought down from generations can have such a powerful impact.

Stories create empathy, a strong feeling others feel often leading to understand the person better or feeling the same way they do. In Doctor Joshua Gowin's article, he states that not only when someone tells a story it creates empathy others can relate to but in terms for the listener, the more they understood a story being shared to them the more similar their brainwaves are and thus allowing them to understand and relate to the story-teller. When taken account to unite people, empathy is a strong tool in order to reach out to others with similar interest. We as humans require interaction regardless if you are an introvert of extrovert, we rely on this to stay connected with others and create this sort of community which brings people together.

Story-telling also creates and strengths creativity which may not seem to relate to uniting people but plays an important role in education we have today. Like many levels of education, stories still have the same effect to bring others together, whether the students, or teacher writing it, it creates this unity within the classroom when read together. Which is probably the reason why when we were younger we did turn by turn readings with the whole class or popcorn reading. Being on the same page with everyone gives a sense of community and belonging. Creativity factors in more at a higher level of education, middle school, high school, and so on. As students we are to write numerous papers for homework and we all encountered an assignment where we have to get creative and make our own story or fiction which can often be share among class, in fact there were times we had competitions on writing the best story out there. Creativity can be used to also bring people together. Used in

education it is a great way to find a common thread among students and the more creative students are the more ways they can understand different concepts or different routes of ideation. A good example of this is in Joann Cattlin's article, *Sharing Stories for Research,* where a group of students were craft materials and toys and where to create a story together with them, in turn this engages the students working together on creating something using a design like process.

Even today there are ways to connect to people all over the world, sharing images, stories, and other relatable things creates this sense of unity within a community whether it's a physical or digital one. A website which I was particularly drawn to was the Techie Project, a website showcasing the stories of many tech employees in the Silicon Valley and how they got their job in the industry. The website is designed well and can attract people into reading these people's stories, all around just very inviting. Websites like these have a common thread where people can relate to and be drawn to be a part of, having the option to submit your own story allows you to be a part of the community and create this unity.

With how recent media has become these past few weeks, finding anything positive can be a little difficult. The sense of unity is almost lost as we ourselves are a divided nation and with things that connect people becoming very little, being able to share the stories of others can bring people together like it has been over generations. In this I gained a better understanding on why writing and sharing stories bring people together on a more informative and psychological level.

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