

WHAT MAKES A STORY A STORY? AND WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR STORIES FOR CHANGE?

- **Setting** – The setting of the story is *when* and *where* a story takes place. This can refer to a location, or a specific period of time, or moment in history, or anything that gives CONTEXT to the events and individuals you are speaking about.

In most cases of storytelling for change, the setting will describe **the status quo before the desired change takes place.**

- **Characters** – The SUBJECT of the story, as well as any other people (or organisations or animals or any other entity with AGENCY and the capacity to influence events.

When telling stories for change, this will usually be a person affected by, or with the capacity to describe, **the issue that we want to change.**

- **Story Starter** – The story starter is the *beginning* event which sets the other events in motion. This can be something that happens externally to the characters (something that happens in their world) OR something that happens internally - a realisation, a disagreement, a crisis, an ambition or dream.

In storytelling for change, this might be an event that highlights **the need for change.**

- **Events** – An event is *something that happens* in the story. The activities the characters perform as they try to resolve a problem or conflict are the events in the story.

In storytelling for change, this might describe **attempts to make change happen, whether successful or not.**

- **Solution** – The solution or outcome is *the event that completes the story or resolves the problem* that began with the story starter.

In storytelling for change, this might be **what the world looks like for characters once the change has happened**, OR it could be an **IMAGINED description of what the world could look like if that change happened**. Not all stories for change have satisfying outcomes.

- **Closing Events** – The closing events are the *activities that wrap up the story*. Closing events often tell how characters feel about the solution to the problem.

In storytelling for change, this might be **a reflection on what would happen if the change was more widely adopted**, OR **a call for action to encourage the change to take place**.