



Stage 9

East of the Sun, West of the Moon

Part II

Storyteller Notes

Storytelling is all about suggestion – the teller suggests a scene, and the final image is created in each child’s mind. Consequently, storytelling sits well with other suggestive art forms, and a great example is origami. There are many simple patterns that you could easily use as a class craft activity – especially for stories involving birds. My origami troll does not *become* the children’s vision of Long Nose; instead it serves more as a foundation for the troll in their mind’s eye, especially if they are unsure what a troll is supposed to look like. If this idea appeals to you, try looking up tangrams too – yet another art form of Asian origin that relies on suggestion and craft.

This telling brings back the main refrains from Part I to unify the story. By remembering Astrid’s song when she hugs the prince, we tie her original aspirations with the resolution of her story arc – which helps make for a more satisfying ending.

We have been exploring the technique of ‘story space’ throughout these videos – how it assists memorisation in *The Big Carrot*, and concentration in *The Magic Paintbrush* and others. Here is one final story space tip: create your characters in story space, and they can interact with one another without awkwardness. Notice how I shift my position in the armchair depending upon who I am representing. Each hag has a different spot, as do the prince and Long Nose. This prevents me from having to perform unwieldy actions such as passing a golden apple to myself, giving the mind’s eye an easier frame of reference and thereby helping your children maintain their engagement with the story world.

Written by Chip Colquhoun

Chip is a professional storyteller and a reviewer of children’s literature. Chip visits schools and theatres all over the UK with his storytelling colleague, Amy Robinson. Find out more at www.snailtales.org