

Creative Storytelling

Whose story is it anyway...?

April 22-24, 2026.

Program for the Thematic Interest Group (TIG)

University of Vlora – Ismail Qemaliin. Albania

Wednesday, April 22 (precise timetable not yet confirmed)

14.00 – 15.00	Registration and Meet and Greet your TIG. First meeting in the TIG nearby the registration desk.	Tell you own prepared story – part one. Mikkel and Hans will tell their stories. And maybe a morning-song....
15.00 – 16.00	Opening ceremony Keynote	
16.00	Group foto?	
16.00 – 17.00	Reception	
18.00 – 18.30	Walk and talk to a restaurant in town	Everyone from the Creative Storytelling TIG together for a social pay your own dinner-dinner.
19.00 – ?	TIG-night out	More info later

Thursday, April 23 – first day.

9.30 – 10.30	Meeting at: The Elite School from 9.30-10.30 to attend the festive Spring Panair by the pupils of the school. Rr. Gjergj Arianiti, Vlorë 9401, Albania.
10.30 – 11.00	Coffee break...? To go...
11.15 – 12.30	And walking for 15 minutes to National Museum of Independence. On tour with the TIG by Hans de Vries. More info later.
12.30 – 13.30	Lunch
13.30 – 15.00	The morning song. Of course. Even though it is late. Tell you own prepared story – part two. Workshop: 'Little Riding Hood' Hans de Vries. More info later.
15.00 – 15.30	Coffee break

15.30 – 17.00	Martijn van Dijk <i>'Wordless Picture Books and Perspective'</i>
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Friday, April 24 – second day.

9.00 – 9.45	Bieke Finet from Howest, de Hogeschool West-Vlaanderen, Belgium. Telling stories with 'story stones' (demonstration - making your own stone). <i>All TIG-participants should bring the following props and materials for this workshop:</i> <i>One round stone/ pebble (can be found alongside the beach of Vlorë.</i> <i>A handful of acrylic paint markers or POSCA paint markers.</i>
9.45 – 10.30	Poetry and poems in teacher education in Sweden. Karin Ulvelid, Liselott Hogedal, Ulrika Eirefelt from University of Gothenburg, Sweden.
10.30 – 11.00	Tell you own story – part three? The future leadership of the Creative Storytelling TIG. Discussion. Ola has troubles making it every year – Hans has expressed a wish to join Mikkel as leader. Maybe there are others?
11.00 – 12.00	Closing ceremony
12.00 – 13.00	Lunch
13.30 – 16.30	Cultural program all participants by bus: visiting the Ancient City of Apollonia, and the monastery of Zverneç
18.30 – 22.00	Gala dinner and dance. Going by bus starting from the Main Building – Rectorate

Abstract descriptions:

Martijn van Dijk

'Wordless Picture Books and Perspective'

In this lesson, students work with wordless picture books and discover that one image does not lead to one single story. Because there is no text, they must actively create meaning themselves: looking becomes thinking, thinking becomes talking, and talking becomes creating. This process explicitly invites learners to put their thinking into words, supporting the development of spoken and narrative language. Although all students see the same book, they tell different stories, and that difference is the core of the lesson. Together, we explore perspective: what do you notice, what do you add yourself, and where does that come from? Students become aware that their interpretations are shaped by experiences, beliefs, expectations, and assumptions. By sharing and negotiating these perspectives, they engage in meaningful language use and discover how language both shapes and reflects thinking. The goal is not to find the "right" story; every story is valid. Students notice how quickly they draw conclusions, often without realizing it. By expressing aloud what they think they see, and by listening to others, they experience how differently the same image can be understood. The visual starting point lowers the language threshold, making this approach highly suitable for multilingual, second language, and foreign language classrooms.