

Shake up your Story

TEDTalks

A video talk by Raghava KK

You are going to watch a 5-minute video of a man named Raghava KK, who defends the option of telling stories (and history) from different perspectives. As you watch the video the first time, your objective should be to understand the general message of the video; don't worry too much about details during this first viewing.



Video link: http://www.ted.com/talks/lang/en/raghava_kk_shake_up_your_story.html

After watching the video once, you should complete the following series of tasks, which will help you to understand the video in greater detail and to improve your English communication skills.

1. Listening Comprehension: Understanding the TEDTalk

In this talk, Raghava KK proposes that we look at stories from different points of view. Watch the video again and answer the following questions using your own words.

1. What is the most significant feature of Raghava KK's story for the iPad?

2. Why did he decide to do this project?

3. Why was he able to have different perspectives during his childhood?

4. Why does he think that parents should provide their children with multiple perspectives?

These activities were created thanks to collaboration between Ziggurat Language Services, S.L. & Mother Tongue, S.L.

2. Express Yourself

What do you think about the speaker's proposal? Do you agree that providing multiple perspectives is beneficial for children? In what sense? How could you provide your children with multiple perspectives?

3. Language Practice

In this talk, Raghava KK recalls his childhood. Read the following fragment from the talk and fill in the blanks with the verbs from the box. Use the past simple tense.

to be (x4)	to go	to have	to celebrate	to play	to cry
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I have to tell you about my childhood. I _____ to this very proper Christian school taught by nuns, fathers, brothers, sisters. Basically, I _____ brought up to be a good Samaritan, and I am. And I'd go at the end of the day to a traditional Hindu house, which _____ probably the only Hindu house in a predominantly Islamic neighborhood. Basically, I _____ every religious function. In fact, when there _____ a wedding in our neighborhood, all of us would paint our houses for the wedding. I remember we _____ profusely when the little goats we _____ with in the summer became biriani. We all _____ to fast during Ramadan. It _____ a very beautiful time.

4. Writing

In this talk, Raghava KK claims that children receive biased information from books. Do you think that the information that adults receive is biased too? Give some examples from the media, or your office, or your family. Justify your answers.

Answer Key

1. Listening Comprehension

1. You can change the story by shaking the device.
2. He decided to do this project because he thinks that children's books give a biased view of life.
3. He feels he had different perspectives as a child because he belonged to a Hindu family who lived in an Islamic neighborhood and he attended a Christian school.
4. He believes that offering multiple perspectives to children will make them understand other people's feelings, and therefore all parents should do that as part of their child's education.

2. Express Yourself

Sample answer:

I agree with Raghava KK's point of view. I believe that if children are exposed to different models (of family, of society, of traditions), it will broaden their minds and they will learn to appreciate what is unique and special in other people. In order to provide my children with multiple perspectives, I would travel to other countries with them, I would tell them stories and traditions from other cultures, I would relate to people with different cultural backgrounds and I would show respect for other people's feelings and beliefs.

3. Language Practice

I have to tell you about my childhood. I **went** to this very proper Christian school taught by nuns, fathers, brothers, sisters. Basically, I **was** brought up to be a good Samaritan, and I am. And I'd go at the end of the day to a traditional Hindu house, which **was** probably the only Hindu house in a predominantly Islamic neighborhood. Basically, I **celebrated** every religious function. In fact, when there **was** a wedding in our neighborhood, all of us would paint our houses for the wedding. I remember we **cried** profusely when the little goats we **played** with in the summer became biryani. We all **had** to fast during Ramadan. It **was** a very beautiful time.

4. Writing

Sample answer:

I think that the information that adults receive is biased too. First of all, we don't have access to all the information we'd like. The mass media and political forces control the amount of information they make public and they often manipulate it in order to serve their own purposes. Big business does the same. It's true that the Internet has increased our chances of getting more information, but it is far from unbiased. Television stations, newspapers, and other media sources generally identify with a political ideology, and the fact is that most people get their news from sources that are in tune with their own beliefs. Very few people take the trouble to double check the information in different sources. The speaker's example of how a historical event can be remembered, depending on whose side you were on, is a fantastic example of how difficult it is to find unbiased reporting of events.