

Stories are the cornerstone of common cultural understanding, creativity, and even socialisation and language. They surround us and stimulate us, entertain us, engage us, and even horrify us. We tell them every day and even participate in and create them just by living our lives and interacting with others. Being human simply means being part of a narrative on our journeys through life—right from infancy with the exposure to fairy-tales that afford us the chance to understand and decode our first stories along with language that introduces us to basic concepts like right and wrong. In fact, Tilley claims that "We are socialized through narrative forms, which offer stories to moderate behaviour ('Don't do that or...'), to develop language ('Mary, Mary, quite contrary...'), to engage the imagination ('Beware the wolf in the forest...') or to make us laugh ('This little piggy went to market...')." (Tilley, 1992: 53) Here is also where we are first introduced to the traditional structure and organizing principles behind the phenomenon of storytelling—narrative.