

Yaamanda yanay barriyaygu?

Will you come to the window?

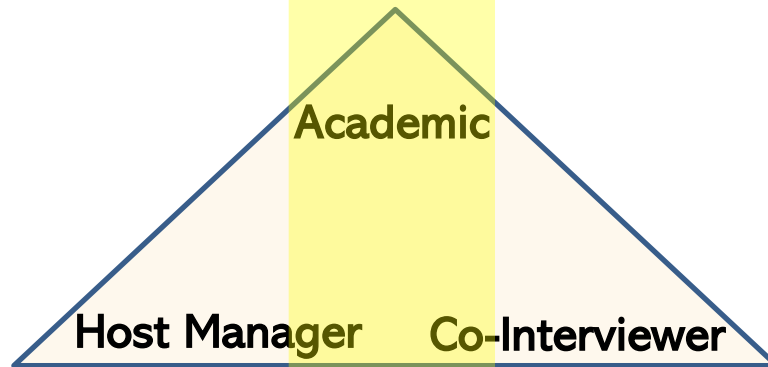
A Narrative Practice Workshop

Facilitated by Jedison Wells

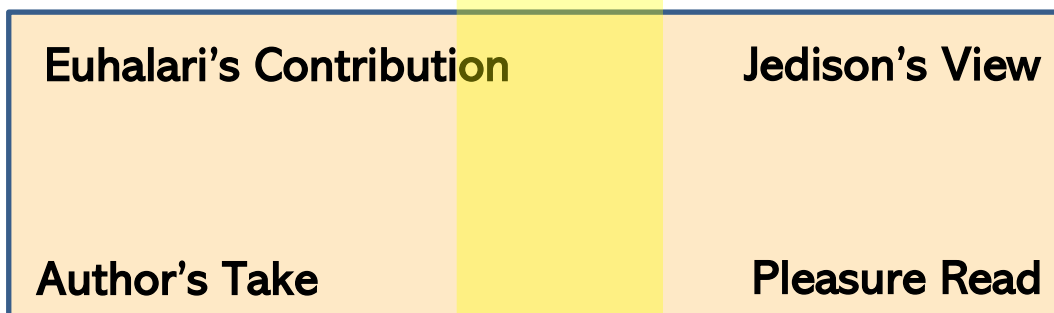
04 November 2019

Hartley and Benington Co-research Model

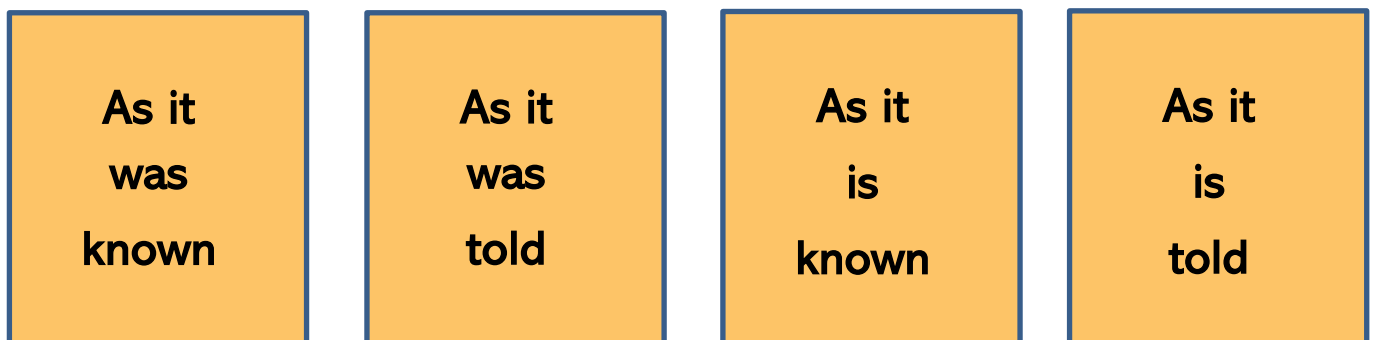
data jointly created AND transferred through multiple perspectives and different interests



Application to Langloh Parker's Book



Barriyay Framework



Vantage Points

What happened?

**As it
was
known**

What was said about what happened?

**As it
was
told**

What has happened since what happened?

**As it
is
known**

How what happened will be told going forward!

**As it
is
told**

Activity 1: Pitavia and Punctata Barriyay

Challenge: Brother takes Advantage / Pitavia finds it difficult to say no

As it was Known	As it was Told
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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pitavia forgot to lock the gate when he was eleven • Punctata, five, was hit by a car and lost his left leg • DOMINANT STORY: Punctata was injured 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Family's life put on hold until Punctata learned how to walk again • Punctata missed out on fun things that Pitavia did at his age • DOMINANT STORY: Punctata was a victim
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As it is Known	As it is Told
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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Eleven year olds make mistakes • Eldest child has parental responsibilities • Punctata is an opportunist • DOMINANT STORY: It was no-one's fault and the family is strong 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve the relationship so we stay close • Continue to support Punctata without giving more of himself than is necessary • DOMINANT STORY: Pitavia doesn't owe anything to his brother
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Activity 2: Acmena

Acmena came clutching the story of arguments and tears between her and her daughter, Sal. Prior to the conversations below, Acmena shared that when she fell pregnant with Sal she was sixteen, unmarried, knew the father for one night only but was not daunted by the prospect of having a baby. She had older sisters and younger brothers and the 'act of motherhood' didn't seem scary to her.

As it was Known

Conversation

- Acmena: When I got pregnant at 16, no-one was surprised. I never remember a time when I wasn't the black sheep, when it wasn't me being in trouble. I had no idea of what to do then and I have no idea of what to do now.
- Me: Acmena, when did you first find out you were pregnant?
- Acmena: I was actually at the Doctor's getting the Pill prescription refilled. It was a lot harder back then, you had to have a pregnancy test first. Turns out the pills made me throw up a little and I didn't realise that I was throwing up the pills with it.
- Me: How did you respond?
- Acmena: I was more embarrassed at how it happened. Like I said before, no-one was surprised, least of all my parents. They didn't even ask who the father was, like he had nothing to do with it.

Possible Questions

Dominant Story:

Activity 2: Acmena

As it was Told

Conversation

- Me: You said that your parents weren't surprised. How did other caregivers respond?
- Acmena: You know family wasn't that bad, it was more people I didn't know. I went back to high school the next year thinking I could better my life. Mum looked after her. I had to request to go back and the Principal had to decide about whether the other parents would be comfortable with me in the classroom with their daughters. I hated that. I really wanted Mum to come in with me but he wouldn't let her. He said at 18 I was an adult. The funny thing was that when they did let me in, if I had a day off, I had to get Mum to write a note because that was the school rule. I don't think they quite knew what they were doing. They chopped and changed.
- Me: There's always been a social stigma to being unmarried but in the 1980s I think young Mums started to push back and expect some support to better their lives.
- Acmena: Maybe but if there was ever support it came with a cost, Everyone thought they had a right to say something. One day, I took her for her shots at one of those Community Centres. You would have thought I had killed her. They went through her with a fine tooth comb, it almost seemed like the Nurse was annoyed because she wasn't bruised or battered in some way.

Possible Questions

Dominant Story:

Activity 2: Acmena

As it is Known

Conversation

- Acmena: I got pregnant when I was teenager, whereas the father was dealt a raw card. How does that work? If he babysitted, he'd get a pat on the back for being such a great dad. When I was raising her my own, it didn't matter whether I was doing a good job or a bad one. I was just a single mother, a loser ... What, how did that work?
- Me: Was there someone who introduced you to the idea of holding onto hope for a different future?
- Acmena: You know there was and it was a complete stranger. I started cleaning houses when Sal started school. Most of the women were so up themselves but not Ranjee. She was usually not home when I cleaned but walked in one day and startled me. I dropped and broke one of her plates. She laughed.
- Me: She laughed?
- Acmena: Yes, I was so at ease with her. It was just a plate and she could have had me sacked. She told me how she had the same job with the same company five years before. Now she had this big house so she must have had money, the house was quite nice. I asked her what her husband did. She laughed again because she didn't have one.
- Me: How did she influence you?
- Acmena: It took awhile but I learnt a lot from Ranjee about what is important about being a Mum and what's important for a Mum. I was so worried about there not being a Dad around, I forgot about how good I could be. This may seem like stalking stuff but at the start, I would read what was on her fridge and just got this idea of how life could still be good without Sal having her Dad. She (Ranjee) had the same electricity bills as me, the same permission slips, the same calendar from the Butcher. Just knowing she was around, lit up the day a little more.
- Me: What do you think it might have meant to Ranjee if she knew that?
- Acmena: We never became good friends but she would take the time to ask me how I was doing with my Writing and put in little tips here and there. Later I found out she was a Career Counsellor that's why her tips always seemed spot on. I think she liked the idea that she could give back.
- Me: What do you think she would say if she was here now?
- Acmena: (yells) Roll up them sleeves Girl, we got us a problem.
- Me: Is that what she used to say?
- Acmena: That was the first thing she said to me when I dropped the plate. And i'm not sure if it was some sort of catchphrase, but she would use that line when we talked about a challenge.

- Me: Acmena, what have you learned about what you can manage?
- Acmena: I did quite well really. Despite all those toffee noses looking down, Sal never missed an excursion or had to wear a second hand uniform. She always had someone there for every race, every ribbon, every play.
- Me: What do you think it says about you that you persisted?
- Acmena: Persisted?
- Me: That you kept doing what you thought was right for Sal even though strangers were telling you otherwise.
- Acmena: Well, it was just the right thing to do. I made the choice to have her, it's not her fault that people look down on us.
- Me: What does it say about you, do you think, that despite the effects of being an unmarried mother, you were able to turn up to those events and pay for the uniforms?
- Acmena: I'm here because i'm committed to her just as much as I was then. She used to love spending time with me. Right now, she's in a teen place, and some say that's her journey, not mine. But i've never relied on what 'some say' in the past, so why should I rely on it now. I do know what i'm supposed to do. I know i've got to have the uncomfortable conversation. I'm not scared that she or anyone else thinks i'm a bad Mum. I'm scared that she will think I have no right to tell her what's right and wrong as a Teenager.
- Me: Why?
- Acmena: Ha, ha .. because I fell pregnant as a Teenager.

Possible Questions

Dominant Story:

Activity 2: Acmena

As it is Told

Possible Questions & Conversation

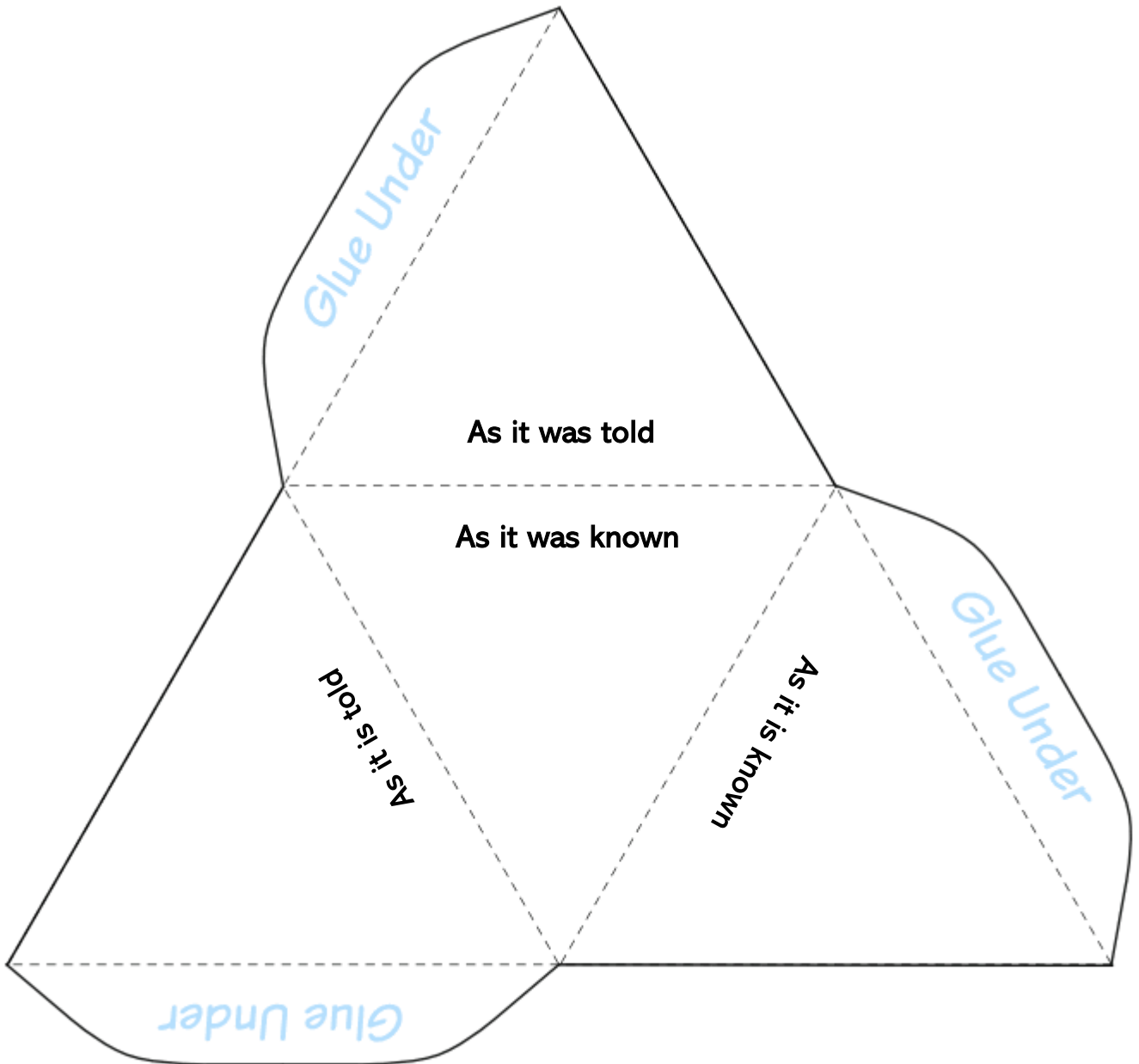
Dominant Story:

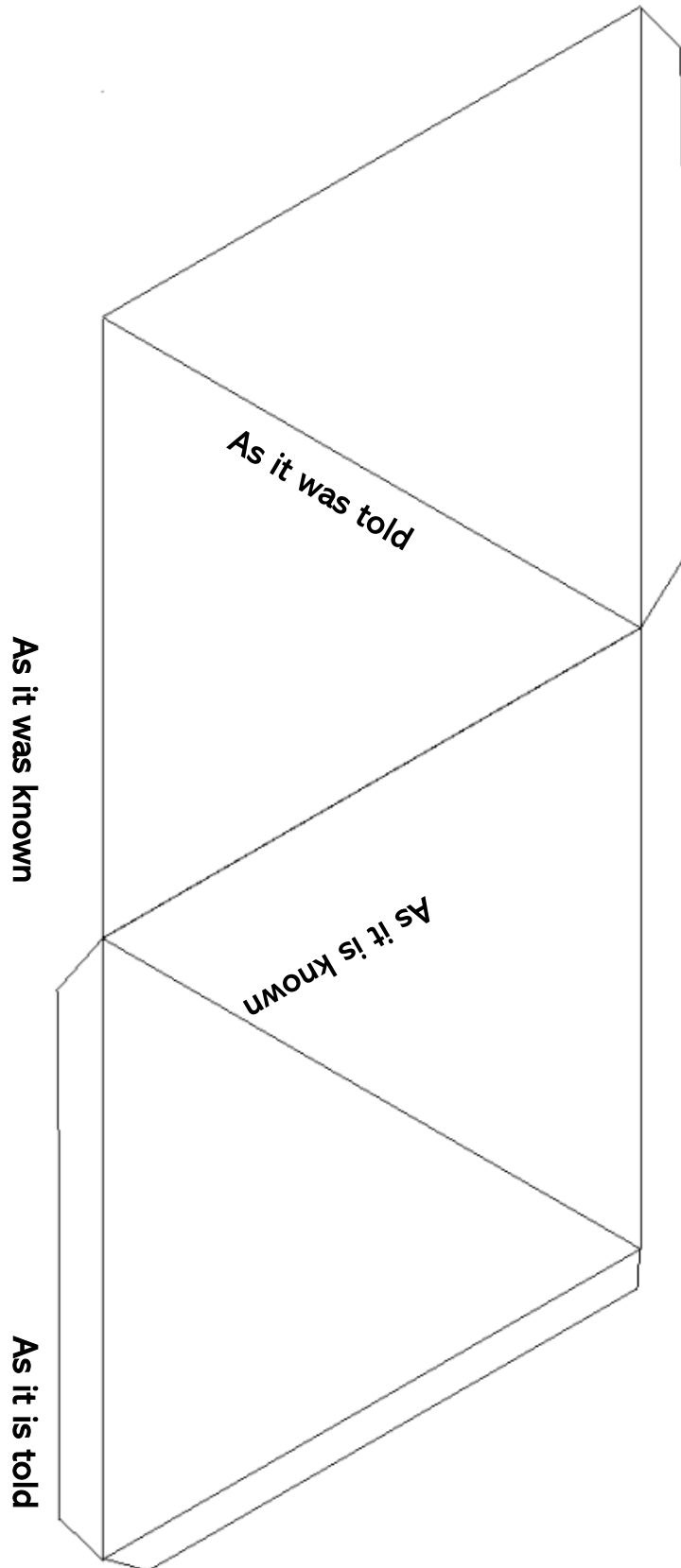
Templates

As it was Known	As it was Told
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As it is Known	As it is Told
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Cutouts





Yawu, Yanay ngaya barriyaygu.

Yes, I will come to the window.

For more information on Barriyay or other Narrative Practices,
Contact Jedison Wells through the details in the header