

Story Sharing Reflection

Now that you've shared your story, consider the following:

1. Where did you begin your story and why?
2. What (if any) context or background did you provide to help your partner understand the situation?
3. Did your story have any tension or conflict in it?
4. Did your story have a plot or narrative arc (i.e. did some action in the story lead to another action)?
5. What kind of details did you include?
6. What did you choose leave out of the story and why?

Great Beginnings

Before the passengers turned on the driver and began plotting mutiny, the ride was smooth. The bus rolled out of São Paulo at about four o'clock on a Wednesday afternoon last July, and within an hour it had shaken free of the city's clotted tunnels, jammed overpasses, and coded graffiti. By six we were barreling straight into a lurid sunset that endowed everything with the candied luster of fresh paint. Greenhills, silver ponds, golden palms. Two parrots soared in tandem over a sugarcane field, inviting us to drift into a pastoral trance.

And then the engine's fan belt snapped.

--Monte Reel, "Camino Real"

The New York Times Magazine, Feb. 23, 2014

On Friday evenings in Thimphu, the capital of Bhutan, men, women, and children throng the main street, flowing together in a slow dance. Swaggering teenage boys, arms slung over each other's shoulders, speak in surprisingly gentle voices. Stray dogs assertively cohabit the city. One often hears singing--on sidewalks, pouring out of windows, on construction sites. The melodies persist in the undulating countryside, where men engaged in matches of archery or darts break into congratulatory chants when the other side scores.

--Madeline Drexler, "The Happiness Metric"

Tricycle, Fall 2014