

THIS ALL COME BACK NOW

YARNING CIRCLE LESSON PLAN

Set up	Establish norms for the yarning circle (class agreement, reminder of social process – listen to others, build on their points, etc.). Why a circle? • This is how Aboriginal people have conducted business and set up learning/teaching experiences for their children for many thousands of years • Similar practices in many cultures around the world The power of the circle: • Promotes student-student interactions • We can all see each other • There are no physical barriers • We are all accountable to each other • Fosters safety, trust, honesty • Sense of equality
Check in / ice breaker	‘My name is ... A favourite song of mine that tells a great story is ...’
Focus question / stimulus	Today we are going to explore the idea of storytelling. Our first focus question is: What is storytelling? <i>[Give students a moment to think. Perhaps have some thought prompts on the board. Then go around the circle, taking turns to answer.]</i> I want to share a video from an Aboriginal academic living on Kurna Country in South Australia. Her name is Jacinta Koolmatrie and she is an Adnyamathanha and Ngarrindjeri woman from Port Augusta. Jacinta is a trained archaeologist and has another view about storytelling. She believes it is a way to pass down true accounts and knowledge: information that is important for our survival. <i>[Watch Koolmatrie’s TEDxAdelaide talk ‘The myth of Aboriginal stories being myths’ (10 minutes). If needed, provide a note-taking scaffold to support the viewing.]</i>
Share thoughts and ideas <i>Go around the circle, taking turns to answer</i> <i>Can send a series of questions around the circle</i>	• What do you think was Jacinta’s main message? • Why does Jacinta believe that stories are not just fiction? • What does Jacinta want people to understand about Aboriginal Elders? • How are rock art, cultural dances, songs, and stories all part of the storytelling tradition? Remember that we checked in by talking about our favourite songs. • Can you see why speculative fiction may be useful for Aboriginal writers, even though they may be writing non-fiction?
Check out	‘Something I’ve learned today is ...’ / ‘Storytelling is ...’