

Hidden Narratives

EDUCATOR & DESIGNER LED

ABOUT

Our **clothes** are **physical** objects. But they also carry our **memories** and **personal** and **family stories**.

Have you ever **wondered** what the **story** is **behind** our clothes?

Perhaps you or a friend or family member has **kept a clothing** item that they **no longer wear**? Perhaps they **own** clothing that has a **special meaning**?

Let's **investigate** the **hidden narratives (stories)** **behind** our **clothes**!



PREP TIME

5+ mins

COOKING TIME

30+ mins

SERVES

2+ people

INGREDIENTS

- A peer, friend or family member and their chosen item of clothing, shoes, or accessory.
- *Optional:* Recording device
- *Optional:* The person the player is interviewing can provide photos of them wearing their chosen clothing.

Designed Resources

You can use these resources digitally or printed:

- Hidden Narratives Interview Activity Sheet
- Hidden Narratives Reflection Sheet
- **Optional:** Presentation Slides

Hidden Narratives

RECIPE PREP

This educator-led recipe works well as a **take-home activity**, with a group discussion and reflection of findings in the classroom/workshop setting.

However, it can **also** be **played** in a **classroom or workshop setting**, interviewing each other. Make sure players bring in their clothing item in advance.

For those wanting versions only for the home, please see the 'Adult-Led - Parent/Carer/Family/Friend' or 'Child/Young Person' versions.

The '**Hidden Narratives Interview Activity Sheet**' and the '**Hidden Narratives Reflection Sheet**' are needed and can be used either printed or digitally. The questions and answers can also be written in the players' notebooks or computers.

PLAY-SPACE SET-UP

If at **home** for the interview, tell the players that their Play-Space should be a **safe** and **comfortable** space for both the interviewer and interviewee. It should be a **quiet** and **calm** space.

If in the **classroom/workshop** for the interview, ensure players have a **space** of their own to conduct their interview.

For the **group discussion**, arrange the **classroom/workshop Play-Space**, so you are all seated in a **circle**.

LET'S EXPLORE!

Introduce players to the recipe - see the 'About' section.

Hidden Narratives

INTERVIEW

This section can be played both in the classroom/workshop or at home:

1. Explain to the players that they need to **find** a **friend** or **family** member they would like to interview. They need to ask them if they are happy to be interviewed.

If you are playing in the classroom, you could allocate them each a partner, so they interview each other in pairs.

2. Explain to them that the **player's peer, friend** or **family** member will need to **choose** and **provide** a clothing item, shoes or accessory that is important to them.

If you are playing in the classroom, they will need to have brought in this item already.

This item of clothing they choose could be:



But there are many other reasons why they might choose a clothing item!

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3. Explain that players need to **interview** their peer, friend or family member about this clothing item.

Players use the **Hidden Narratives Interview Sheet** for the questions to ask the friend/family member.

The interviewee needs to have this **clothing** item in **front** of **them** while the player interviews them.

TIPS!

During the interview, they can either:

- **Write their answers** down on the **activity sheet** straight away.

OR

- **Take notes** first in a **notebook**. Afterwards, they can write their answers on this sheet, either printed or digitally or on other paper.

These **questions** are just a **guide**.

As the players ask the interviewee the questions on the sheet, more questions will arise.

Encourage players to keep asking **their own questions** while they are conducting their interview.

Optional:

- Players can **record** their **interview**. They can use a recording device so that they can **rewatch** or **relisten** to the interview afterwards. You (the adult) might need to help them record the interview.
- Players can take **photos** or **videos** of the **garment** to **document** their interview.

Hidden Narratives

REFLECT

This can be completed in class or by themselves.

4. Players use the **Hidden Narratives Reflection Sheet** after their interview to reflect on their discoveries.

DISCUSS

This section should be played together as a group:

5. Facilitate a **group discussion** with the players in a group setting. Use the questions from the interview sheet as prompts.

Players can show everyone their activity sheet, reflection sheet, interview findings/notes and/or the interview recording.

LET'S KEEP COOKING!

Players can use these **interview questions** to **explore** one of their own **clothing** items. They can fill out the questions themselves, or have someone else interview them.

This could be another recipe you could complete!

Hidden Narratives

PEDAGOGIC PRINCIPLES



LEARNING GOALS

Understanding clothing as tangible manifestations of our memories, capturing immaterial experiences through materiality.

Encouraging and increasing emotional durability and longevity of our clothing.

Nurturing practices of care and compassion towards our clothing as an extension of the self.

Emphasising the importance of fashion as a communicative and connective tool.

EXPLANATION

Our garments hold hidden narratives and are incredibly important in the telling and constructing of our histories, as a personal archaeology, autobiographical tool and tactile and tangible mixtape of memories.

By examining our and our family's wardrobe and wardrobe practices, we can recognise clothing as a mechanism for connecting us to our past, as well as shaping our future identity and self.

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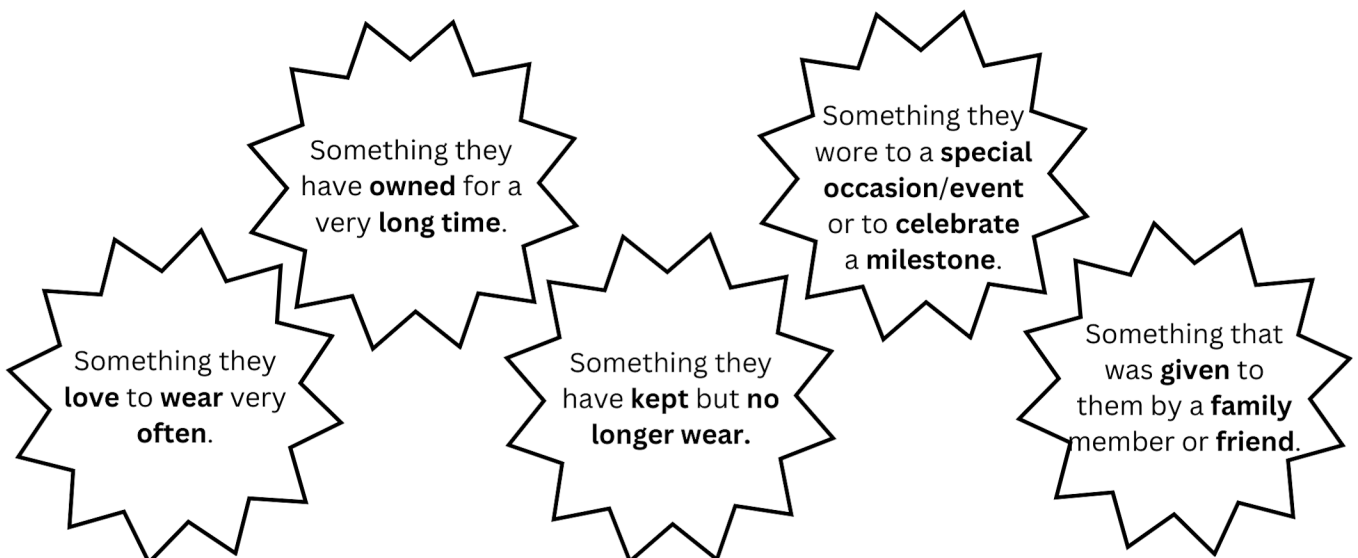
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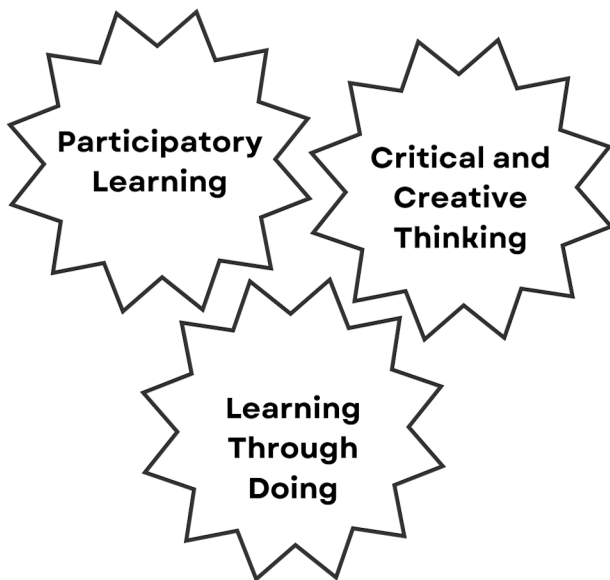
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