



## PRACTITIONER

### How to create meaningful connections with nature through storytelling

Nathan Bass, The WildLife Movement

#### Abstract

Storytelling is a powerful tool through which we can recount our own environmental experiences and facilitate a connection between our audience and the natural world. Our unique stories of animal encounters, environmental activism work or time spent in nature have the potential to inspire children to develop their own meaningful connection with nature. This presentation aims to cover the techniques that can elevate a simple story to a powerful tool to connect our students, teachers or the wider community with nature and to inspire them to take action towards having a positive impact on it. By rethinking the way we tell our stories and understanding the importance of good narrative structure and the neurochemistry of storytelling, it is possible to reactivate the same regions in our brains that were active during our initial experience.

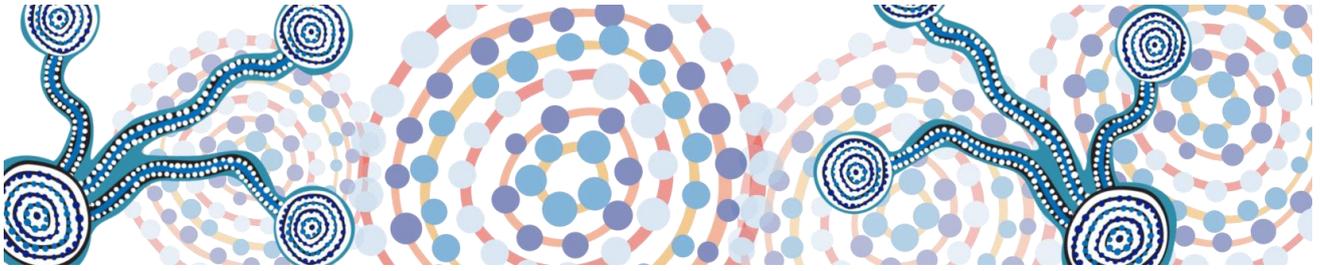
In turn, this has the potential to activate mirror neurons in the same regions of the brain in our listeners. Through the activation of these mirror neurons, our stories will resonate with our audience on a deeper level as they begin to feel as though they are active participants in our stories. Not only is the way in which we tell these stories important, but so is the content of them. Our stories must be authentic and recount our own personal experiences in a positive and uplifting way. In the same way that the moon pulls on the oceans to create the tides, our environmental stories can pull on the hearts of our audiences and lead to a positive shift in the impact they have on the environment. Our stories can create a movement in the hearts and minds of all those who hear them and together, we have the ability to inspire a generation of children to care about and love our planet.

#### Speaker Profile

Nathan Bass is the owner of The WildLife Movement, an environmental education business that aims to inspire every child to live a wild life connected to the environment and to realise their potential to have a positive impact on the world around them. After researching sharks and volunteering in aquariums and conservation programs around the world and then finding a passion for working with children, Nathan combined his passions into a business that takes marine animals into classrooms to connect students with nature and encourage them to act as responsible stewards towards the environment while living the wild life.

#### Website links

→ [www.thewildlifemovement.com.au](http://www.thewildlifemovement.com.au)



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