

ANGELA CHALKIOPOULOU: HOW STORYTELLING TRANSFORMED MY TEACHING PROCESS

I am an educator in Cyprus, and for me, stories are the most magical bridges to reach my students—to inspire them to see themselves and the world with wonder. Through years of **storytelling adventures**, I have discovered a profound truth: regardless of age, race, culture, religion, ability, or disability, every student deserves a story that ignites curiosity, opens doors to endless possibilities, and plants the seeds of hope, empathy, and lifelong learning.



When people ask me how I find the time to do so many things with such diverse groups and consistently deliver amazing final products, I tell them that it is always a matter of love and vision. If you manage to create a mixture of those two qualities in your profession, it will cease to be just an ordinary job for you; it will eventually become your **power bank** in life, fuelling you with purpose and joy. Teaching, in particular, is a profession that can offer you this **treasure of emotions** that no other can. Every encounter with students brings new perspectives and unforgettable moments, enriching both teacher and student.

With each day, the rewards of teaching grow, making it not just a career but a lifelong adventure. Art, in my work, becomes a **transformative, magical space** where students are allowed to express themselves, experiment, and leave an unforgettable imprint of this **story experience** in their souls.



I will never forget students like M. who came to us with selective mutism, and she is now a book presenter in our team **The Readers**. Another example is A., a victim of bullying who attended one of our library workshops. At the start of the activity, he said, "I want to kill myself." Through the workshop's confidence-building activities, he has become one of the most valued and appreciated helpers on our librarian team.

Many big or small changes, indicating the power of connection through stories, are always kept deep in my heart, giving me the strength to carry on, no matter the difficulties.

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Eleftheria Giorgalli Teacher & Collaborator
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My interaction with Mrs. Angela affected my personal life and my behaviour as a teacher. The approach of difficult subjects through literature strengthened me and offered me another vision in my teaching!!! I watched the children get excited and participate enthusiastically. Most importantly, they were able to understand difficult concepts by connecting the stories to their own worries and feelings.

Angela is an inspiration to me and to anybody she collaborates with, an unimaginable source of ideas.

Now I use literature in every lesson, and approach all subjects through books, strengthening my teaching method and creating my own small readers!



Watch this video and be part of the conversation.

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