



Introduction:

In this activity, participants will explore micro-fiction, which differs from longer form narrative pieces in relying wholly on the perspective of the reader to interpret what is happening. Participants will practice active reader engagement to gain an immersive exploration of perspective taking and the creation of their own narrative worlds. This activity centers around developing critical interpretation skills in perspective taking.

Participant Instructions:

1. Discuss as an entire group:
 - What do you think perspective taking means?
 - What kinds of interactions require us to take another's perspective?
 - How do differing perspectives affect communication?

2. Consider the following quote and then discuss:

“When he/she/it woke up, the dinosaur was still there” (Monterroso, 1959)

- What information do we have?
 - What do you think is happening in this narrative?
3. View Augusto Monterroso's one-sentence piece of fiction. Consider what is happening for each image. These pieces of micro-fiction do not give any contextual information about when, where, why, or how, but rather only a snapshot of what is happening.
Discuss:

- Whose perspective do we see?
- How do you understand the dinosaur in this image?
- What is the relationship between the dinosaur and the main character (positive/negative/ambiguous?)
Explain.



- Whose perspective do we see?
- How do you understand the dinosaur in this image?
- What is the relationship between the dinosaur and the main character (positive/negative/ambiguous?)
Explain.





- Whose perspective do we see?
- How do you understand the dinosaur in this image?
- What is the relationship between the dinosaur and the main character (positive/negative/ambiguous?) Explain.



- Whose perspective do we see?
- How do you understand the dinosaur in this image?
- What is the relationship between the dinosaur and the main character (positive/negative/ambiguous?) Explain.



- Whose perspective do we see?
- How do you understand the dinosaur in this image?
- What is the relationship between the dinosaur and the main character (positive/negative/ambiguous?) Explain.



4. After viewing all images side-by-side, discuss:



- What do you feel when you see each image with the dinosaur? Why?
- How have you taken a perspective on what you have just seen?

- How did our experiences influence our opinions of the 4 interpretations?
- How does it feel when others share your perspective on these images? How does it feel when they don't?
- How can you apply what you've learned about perspective taking and communication?
- What role does perspective taking have in your daily communication?