

# Storytelling Workshop

Giving Women

7 April 2022

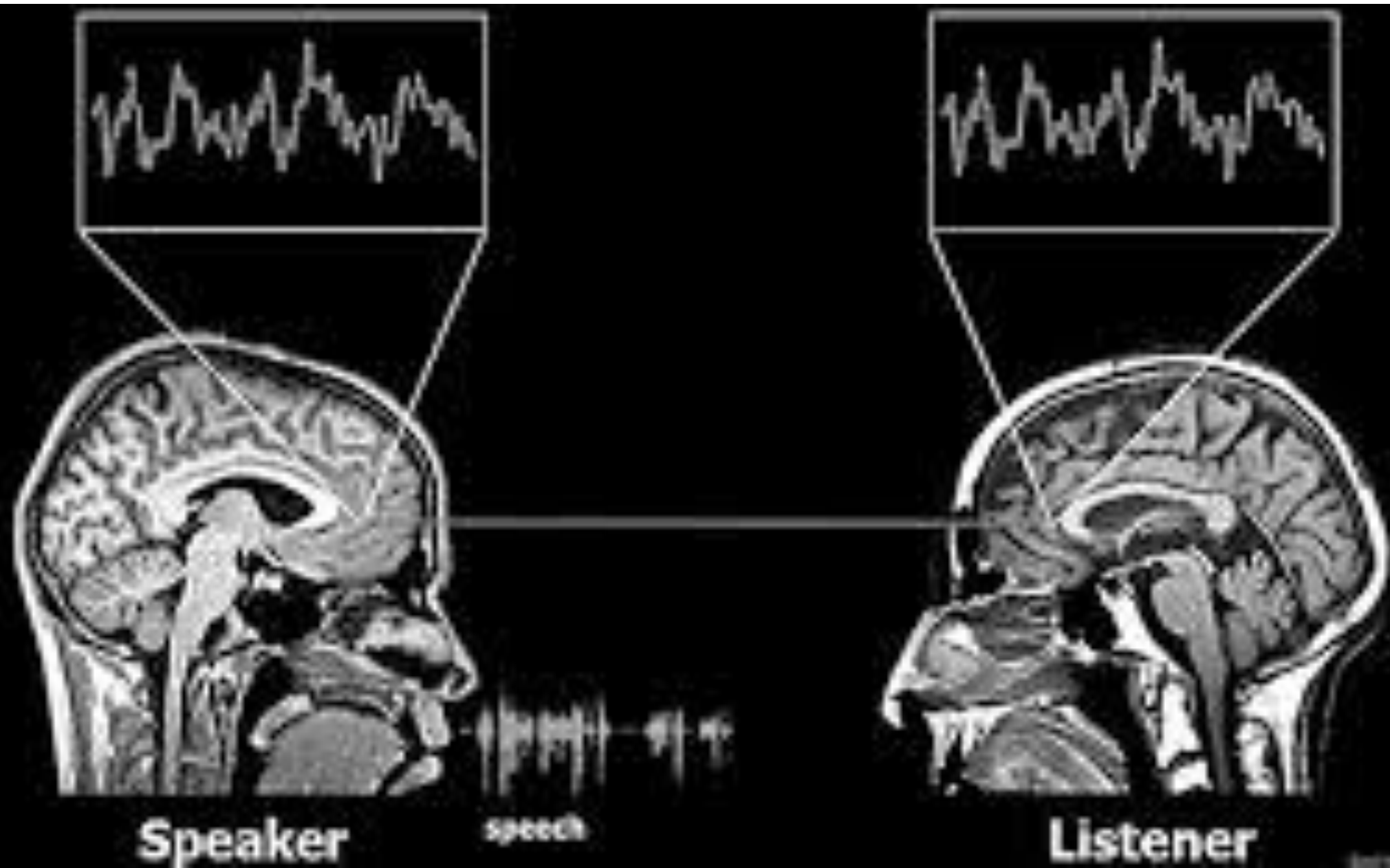
Sarah Noble

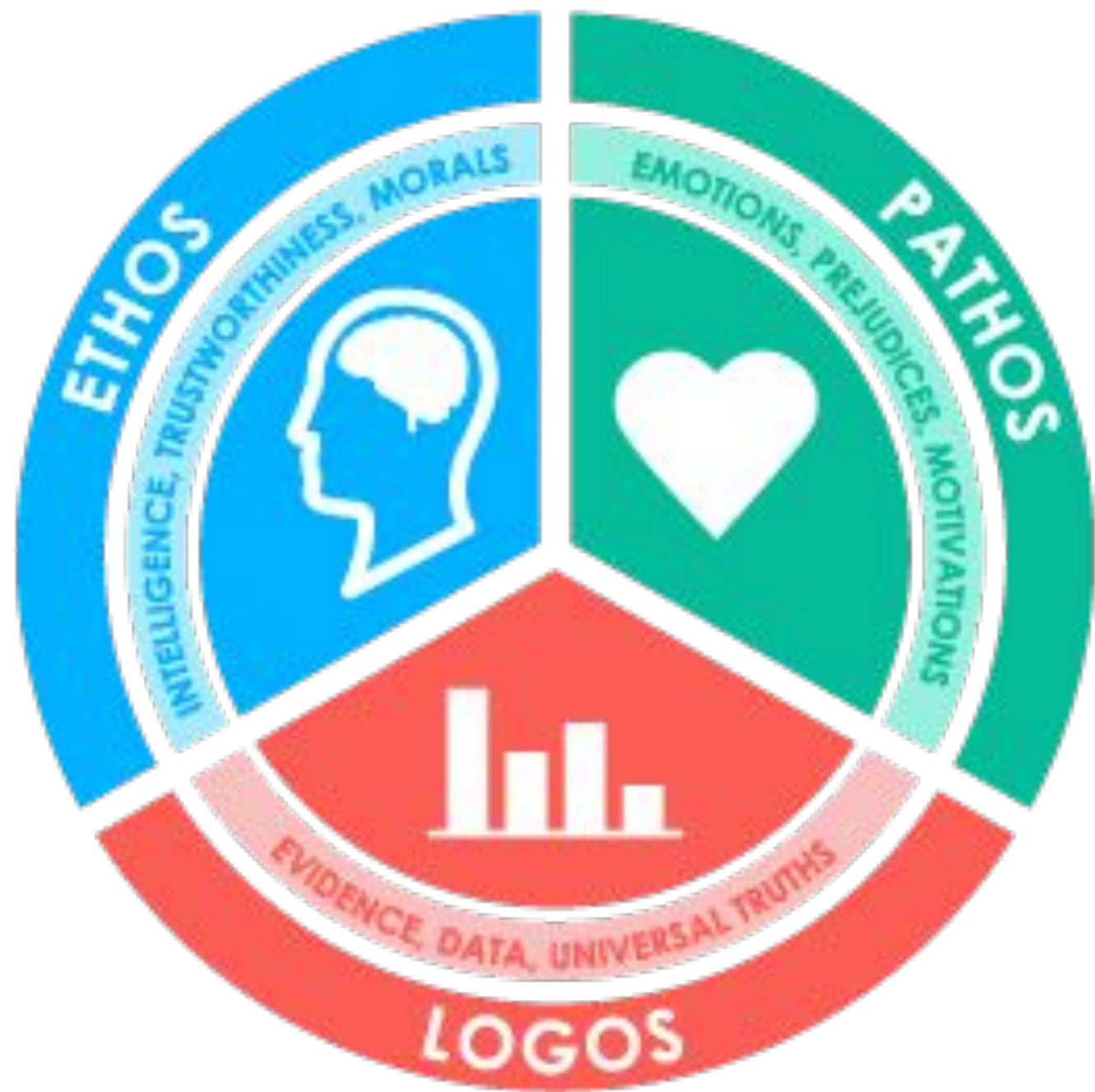
1. Why storytelling is such a powerful tool for social change
2. Importance of ethical storytelling
3. Key elements of a story

Practice! Storytelling/sharing break out groups

Q&A







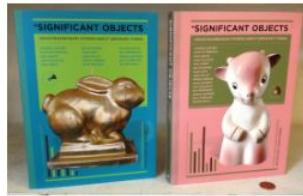




# SignificantObjects

...and how they got that way

- FOSSILS
- TALISMANS
- IDOLS
- TOTEMS
- EVIDENCE
- ABOUT
- PRESS
- NEWS

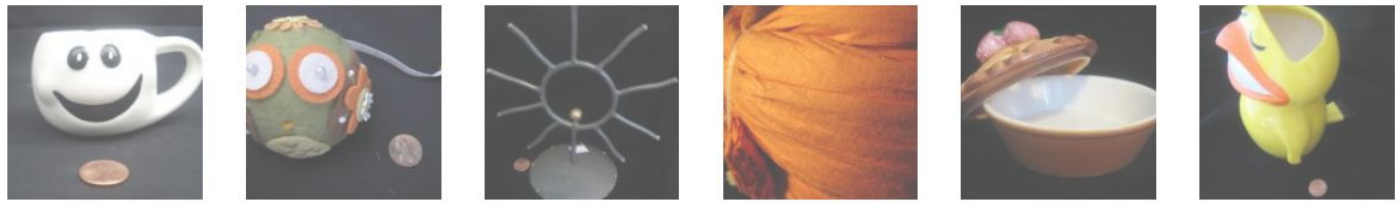


Significant Objects, a literary and anthropological experiment devised by Rob Walker and Joshua Glenn, demonstrated that the effect of narrative on any given object's subjective value can be measured objectively.

The project auctioned off thrift-store objects via eBay; for item descriptions, short stories purpose-written by over 200 contributing writers, including Meg Cabot, William Gibson, Ben Greenman, Sheila Heti, Neil LaBute, Jonathan Lethem, Tom McCarthy, Lydia Millet, Jenny Offill, Bruce Sterling, Scarlett Thomas, and Colson Whitehead, were substituted. The objects, purchased for \$1.25 apiece on average, sold for nearly \$8,000.00 in total. (Proceeds were distributed to the contributors, and to nonprofit creative writing organizations.) All the project's stories are archived on this site.

Glenn and Walker are now pleased to announce that a collection of 100 of the project's finest stories has been published by Fantagraphics in a highly impressive volume, masterfully designed by Jacob Covey. **It is available now via Powell's, Amazon, B&N, or wherever finer books are sold.**

Follow the latest news and other interesting notes on objects, stories, and value at [significobs.tumblr.com](http://significobs.tumblr.com). We're also on [Twitter](#), and [Facebook](#), and sometimes we even post in the news section of this very site!



[twitter.com/significobs](https://twitter.com/significobs)

# Ethical storytelling

- Storyteller or story sharer
- Honouring communities you intend to serve.
- Questions:
  - Consent to tell someone's story?
  - Who is best placed to tell the story? Platform for people to tell their stories in their own words.
  - Whose needs and desires are at the centre of the story?
  - Who is the hero of your story, the person/community or your organization?
  - Are you telling a story in a way that reinforces harmful stereotypes?



**ASSET FRAMING IS DEFINING PEOPLE BY**

**THEIR ASPIRATIONS AND CONTRIBUTIONS**

**THEN ACKNOWLEDGING THE CHALLENGES**

**AND INVESTING IN THEM FOR CONTINUED**

**BENEFIT TO SOCIETY.**

Trabian  
Shorters



# Elements of a story

1. Character and setting: Paint the scene. Describe the when and where of your story. Introduce the protagonist (main character) .
2. Plot: beginning, middle and end.
  - The 'Beginning,' 'Middle,' and 'End' of the plot usually revolves around one significant event or moment for shorter stories.
  - The 'Beginning' introduces the characters and sets up the scene, the 'Middle' Ushers in a **conflict or impediment** for the narrates how the protagonist comes through, and the 'Ending' brings the story's resolution.
3. The theme, the central argument or main topic of the story.



# Once you have your story

- Who are you telling the story to?
- Why are you sharing this story? What do you want your audience to do?
- Who is best placed to tell or share the story?
- What is the best medium to share story?

# Practice- break out groups

- You will join fellow story tellers/sharers in a break out group for 30 minutes
- **10 minutes** Everyone is invited to spend thinking about
  1. A story you want to tell
    1. think about character, setting, plot and theme.
    2. Who are you telling the story to?
    3. Why are you telling this story?

Jot it down

Examples:

- Tell a story about a time you overcame a fear.
- Talk about a time you really wanted something. Did you get it? Did you not get it?
  - What was an experience that changed the way you look at the world.
  - What is the impact you want to have on the world and why?
- What spurred your desire to create and work on your project?

20 minutes sharing: Volunteer to share your story (2-3 minutes) with the group as well as who you would be telling it to and why you are telling this story?



Q&A