Working in a Storied Way. The Power of Narrative

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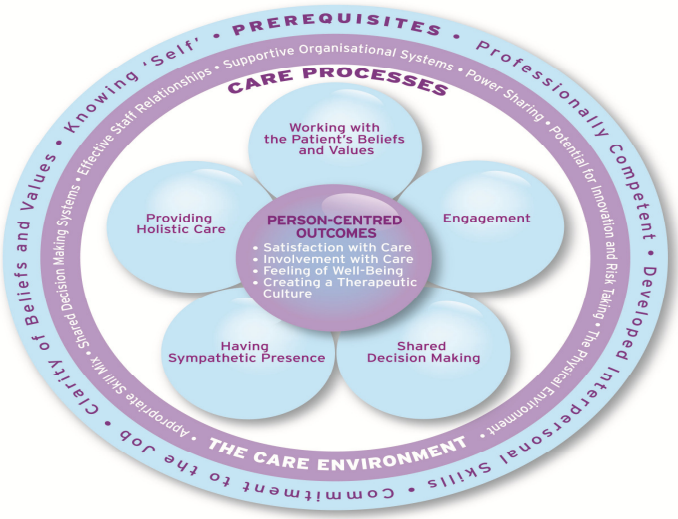
What is Narrative?

What is Person-centred Care



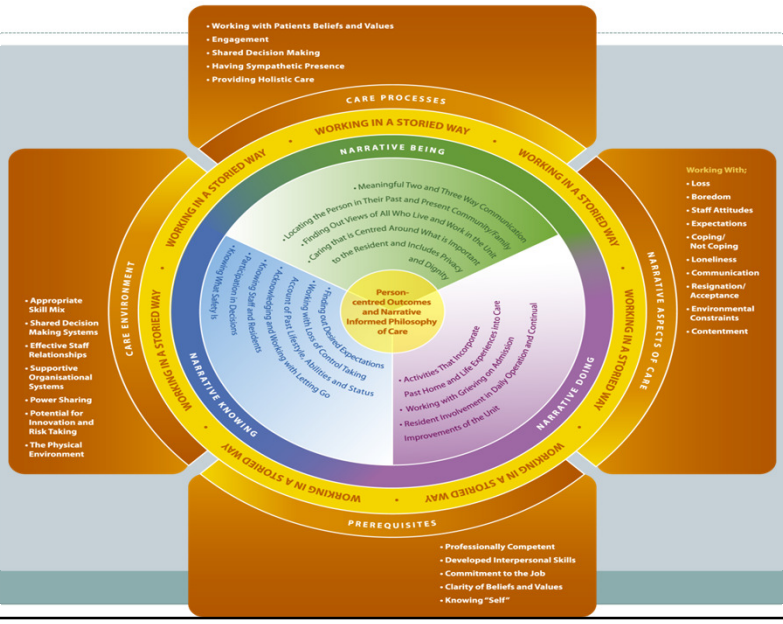
What does Narrative mean for people with Dementia

- Memories
- Remembered and experiences events
- As a resource to maintain identity
- Affected by context
- Stories reflect our true identities
- Using narrative in health care can enable residents to connect with others, express their own identity, and give meaning to their lives (Clarke & Warren 2007).

Narrative and Person-centred Care

- Promotes the development of relationships
- Increases Reciprocity and shared understandings
- Enables meaningful engagement
- Leads to the identification of poor practices
- Increases quality of life for people with Dementia

Framework of Narrative Practice



How can it be achieved?

- Narrative Practice and culture identification
- Developing narrative ways of working
- Working in a storied way

Narrative practice and culture identification.

Developing Narrative ways of working

- **Communication**
- **Changing mindsets**
- **Spending more time**
- **Meaningful activity**
- **Homely environment**
- **Having more going on with/for the resident**
- **Intercommunication**
- **Meals and mealtimes**

What is working in a Storied Way?

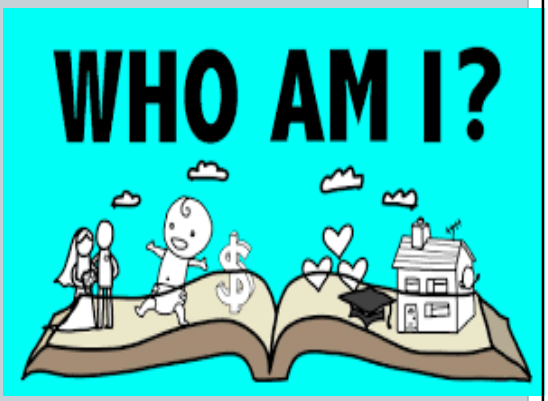
- Implementing the strategies and ideas identified in developing narrative ways of working cycle.
- Action Plans
- Approaches and styles

Narrative Being

- Engagement
- Communicative Spaces

Narrative Knowing

- Shared understanding
- Leadership
- Narrative identity.



Intentional Action

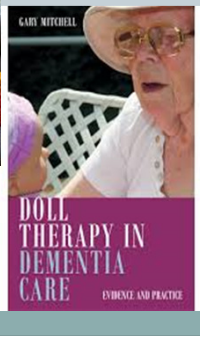
- Narrative of residents
- Narrative of staff
- Narrative of organisation

Describe how using the framework can impact the care of residents with Dementia

How does story inform care?

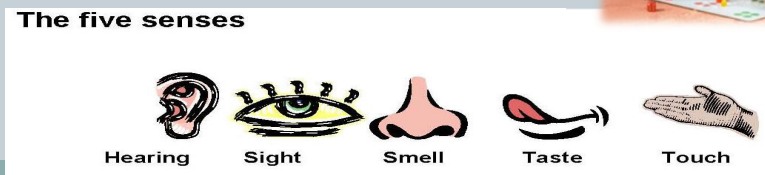
How does story help to support the person through Responsive behaviours

- Doll Therapy
- Music
- Reminiscence

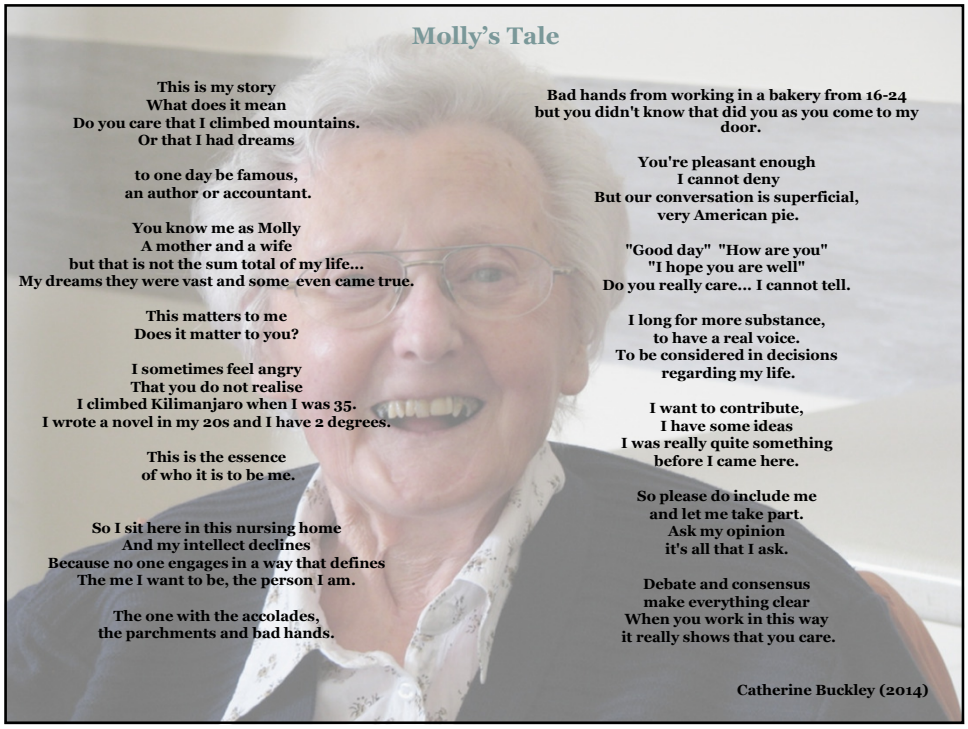


How can story aid with the development of meaningful Activities.

- Personal



- Narrative and Narrative Practices give voice to hard to reach groups and vulnerable older people such as those with Dementia.
- The framework of narrative practice outlines an approach that provides staff with a template to enable them to make sense of narrative experiences and to use that knowledge in the provision of person-centred Dementia care.


Molly's Tale
This is my story
What does it mean
Do you care that I climbed mountains.
Or that I had dreams
to one day be famous,
an author or accountant.
You know me as Molly
A mother and a wife
but that is not the sum total of my life...
My dreams they were vast and some even came true.
This matters to me
Does it matter to you?
I sometimes feel angry
That you do not realise
I climbed Kilimanjaro when I was 35.
I wrote a novel in my 20s and I have 2 degrees.
This is the essence
of who it is to be me.
So I sit here in this nursing home
And my intellect declines
Because no one engages in a way that defines
The me I want to be, the person I am.
The one with the accolades,
the parchments and bad hands.
Bad hands from working in a bakery from 16-24
but you didn't know that did you as you come to my door.
You're pleasant enough
I cannot deny
But our conversation is superficial,
very American pie.
"Good day" "How are you"
"I hope you are well"
Do you really care... I cannot tell.
I long for more substance,
to have a real voice.
To be considered in decisions
regarding my life.
I want to contribute,
I have some ideas
I was really quite something
before I came here.
So please do include me
and let me take part.
Ask my opinion
it's all that I ask.
Debate and consensus
make everything clear
When you work in this way
it really shows that you care.
Catherine Buckley (2014)