

Figures from Chapter Two (What Is a Story?) of  
*Working with Stories in Your Community or Organization: Participatory Narrative Inquiry*  
(Third Edition)  
by Cynthia F. Kurtz

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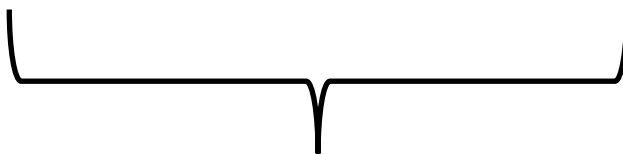
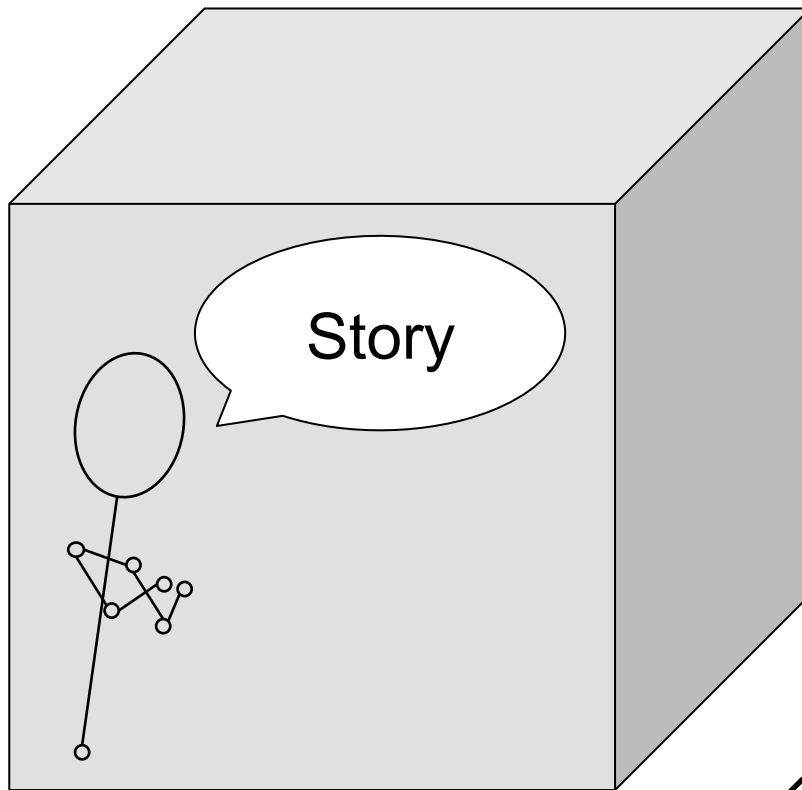
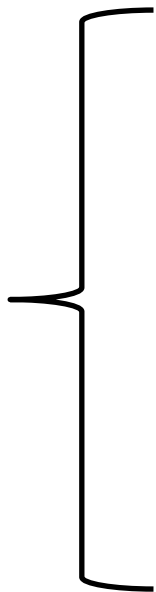
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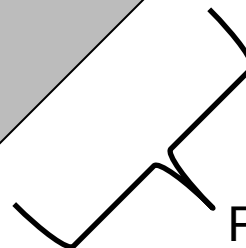
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Form



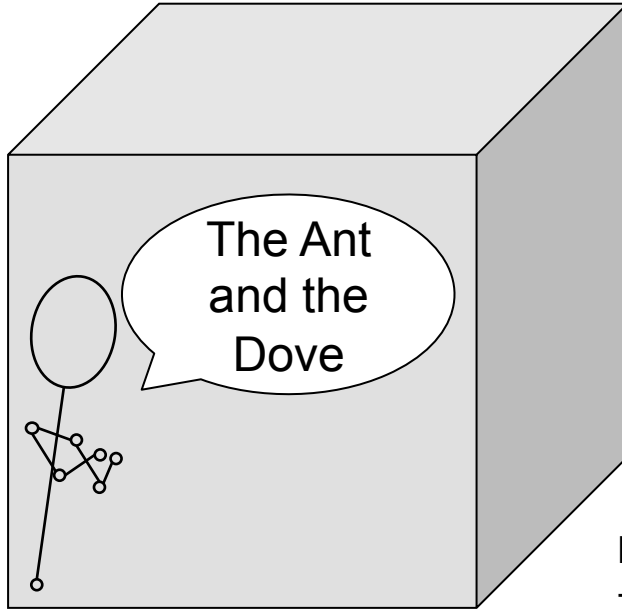
Function



Phenomenon

### Form

- River, tree, hour
- Intelligent animals
- Dove saves ant
- Ant saves dove
- Risk, aid, reciprocation
- Mutual salvation
- Safety



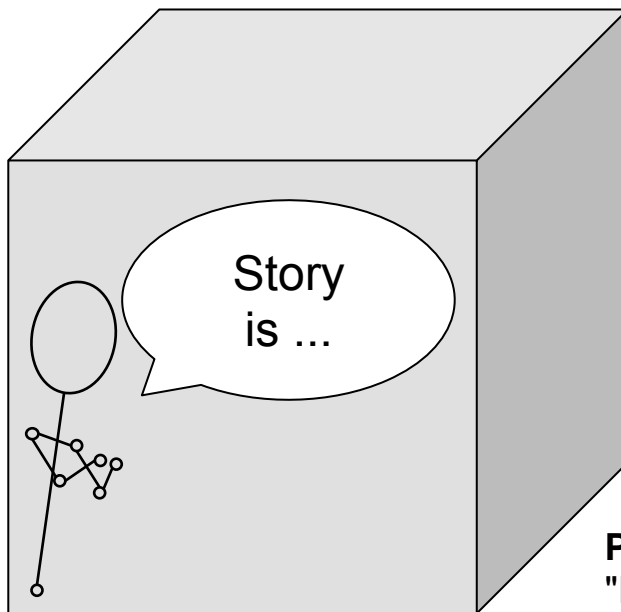
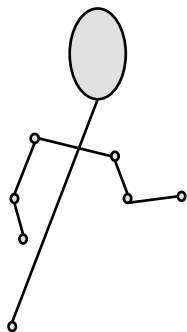
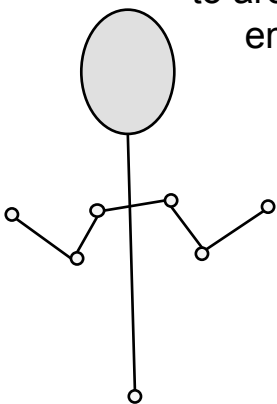
### Function

- Expectation: self-preservation
- Violation: risk taken to help other
- Result: gain to self
- Lesson: Helping is worthwhile

### Phenomenon

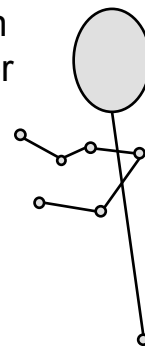
- Aesop represents oral traditions
- Used to teach children about social life
- Two interpretations compete for dominance:
  1. One good turn deserves another (ant and dove are friends beforehand)
  2. What goes around comes around (ant and dove are strangers beforehand)

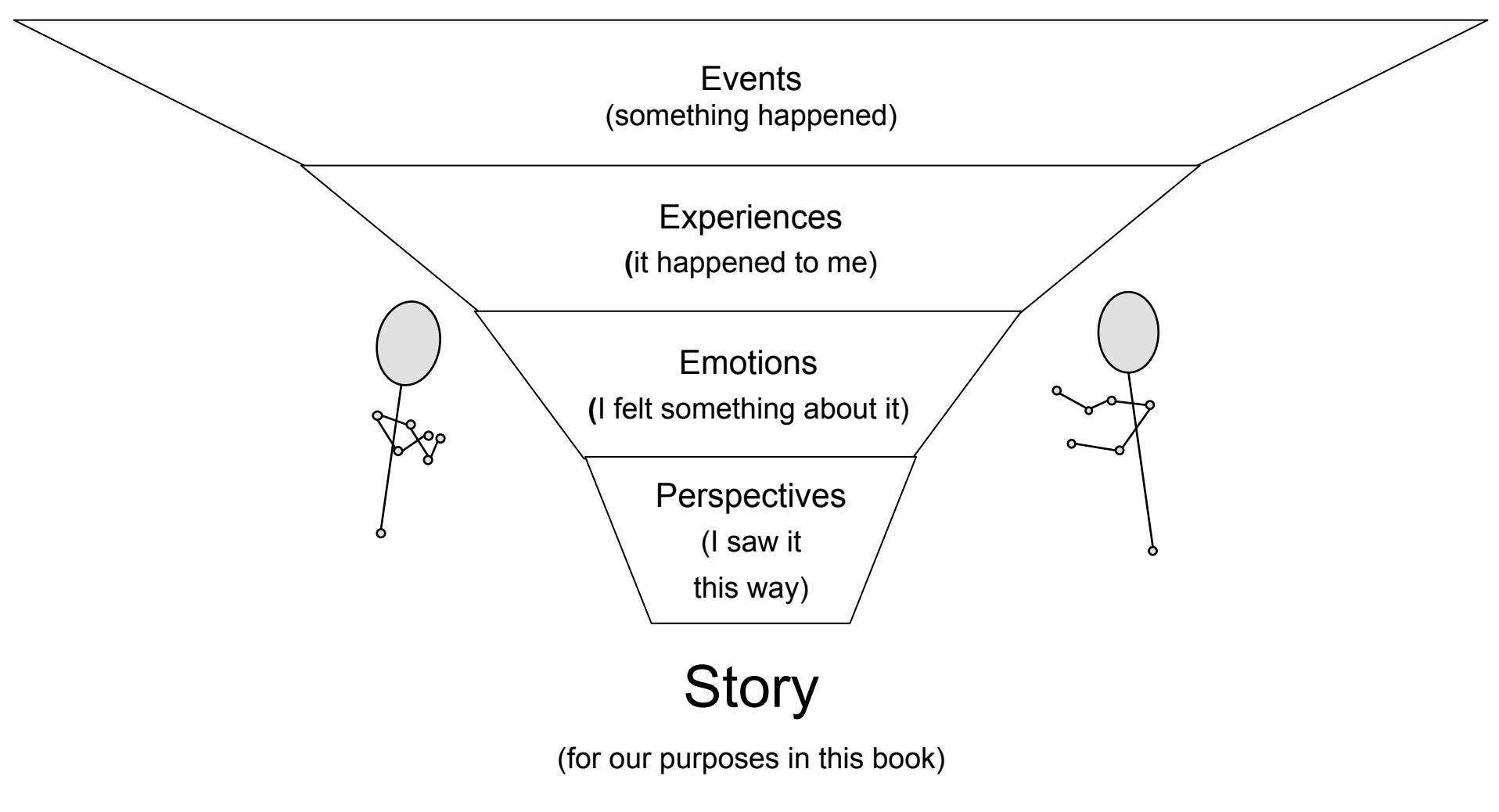
**Form**  
"Structure is a selection  
of events . . . composed  
into a strategic sequence  
to arouse specific  
emotions. . . ."



**Function**  
"We can call prior  
experiences to mind to  
help us understand a  
current situation."

**Phenomenon**  
"If a story has been  
swimming in the vast ocean  
of human consciousness for  
decades or centuries or  
even millennia,  
it has earned its place."





Events  
(something happened)

Experiences  
(it happened to me)

Emotions  
(I felt something about it)

Perspectives  
(I saw it  
this way)

Story

(for our purposes in this book)