Telling Stories Through Photos

How to be a storyteller without using a single word.

KS2 Photography & Film Guide



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Your Camera is a Pen

Did you know photography is just like writing a book? You capture feelings, moments, and ideas to help people understand a story without words. Just as a writer uses adjectives, you use visuals.

The Learning Journey Checklist

- [x] 1. Understand how photos tell stories.
- [x] 2. Identify emotions and themes.
- [x] 3. Master the techniques of arrangement and sequence.
- [x] 4. Create your own storyboard.



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The Power of the Silent Story

A single image can provoke huge questions. When you look at a photo, you should ask: What happened before this moment? What might happen next?



Key Insight

Photographers share emotions. You don't need to tell people to feel happy or sad; the photo does it for you.

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The Three Pillars of Visual Storytelling



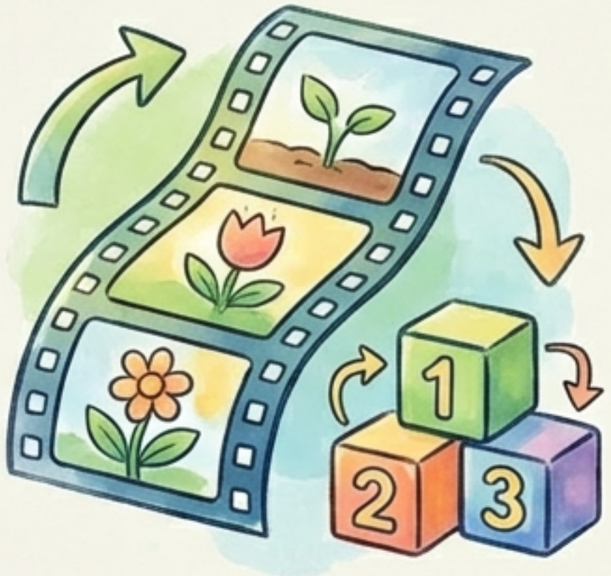
Pillar 1: Subject

The Who or What. The main object or person you are capturing.



Pillar 2: Mood

The Feeling. The atmosphere (happy, spooky, calm) of the photograph.



Pillar 3: Sequence

The Order. How pictures are arranged if you are telling a story in steps.

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Where You Stand Matters

Composition: The arrangement of objects in a photo. It's like setting the stage for a play.

Perspective (Angle): The position of the camera when the photo is taken.

small

small



Photo A: Standard View

HUGE & FAST!

Photo B: Storyteller View



Photo B: Storyteller View

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Painting with Light and Detail

Lighting: Your Mood Maker

Light is your mood maker. Bright light feels happy; shadows feel mysterious.



Detail: Small Parts, Big Picture

Small parts contribute to the bigger picture.



Try the Mood Tester: Use a lamp to change the light on an object. How does the feeling change from bright to dark?

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The Storyteller's Vocabulary

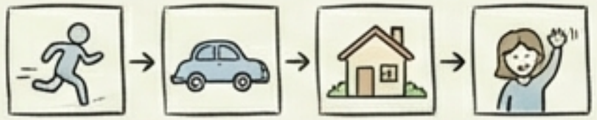
Narrative

A story or sequence of events.



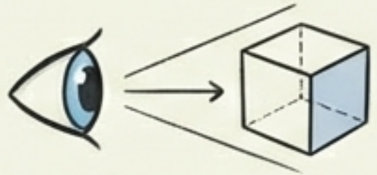
Storyboard

A series of images showing the idea for a story.



Perspective

The viewpoint/angle the object is seen from.



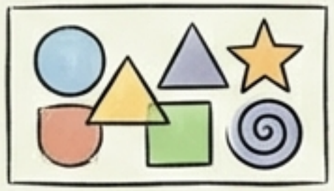
Mood

The feelings or atmosphere in a photograph.



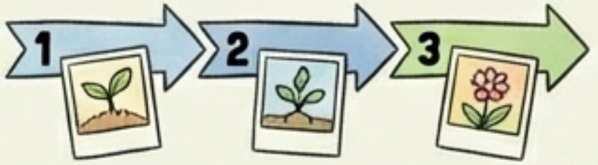
Composition

The arrangement of objects in the frame.



Sequence

The order in which photos are arranged.



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Learning from the Masters

The UK is home to incredible storytelling.



The British Museum: Uses old photographs to tell the story of history and everyday life from the past.



Chris Packham: A famous wildlife photographer and naturalist. His photos tell powerful stories about animals and nature without words.

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Mission Briefing: The Photo Story

A photo story isn't just one picture. It is a series of photos that work together to tell a full narrative (a beginning, middle, and end).



The Setup **The Action** **The Result**

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Step 1: Dream and Plan

Photo Story Brainstorm (30 Mins)

Before you grab the camera, grab a pencil.



Think: Come up with a story idea.



Sketch: Draw a quick ‘Storyboard’ (a sketch of your scenes).



Plan: What props do you need? Who is your subject?

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Step 2: Capture and Create

Create a Photo Story (45 Mins)

The Golden Rule Box

You do not need an expensive camera. A smartphone or disposable camera works

perfectly. Creativity is more important than cost!



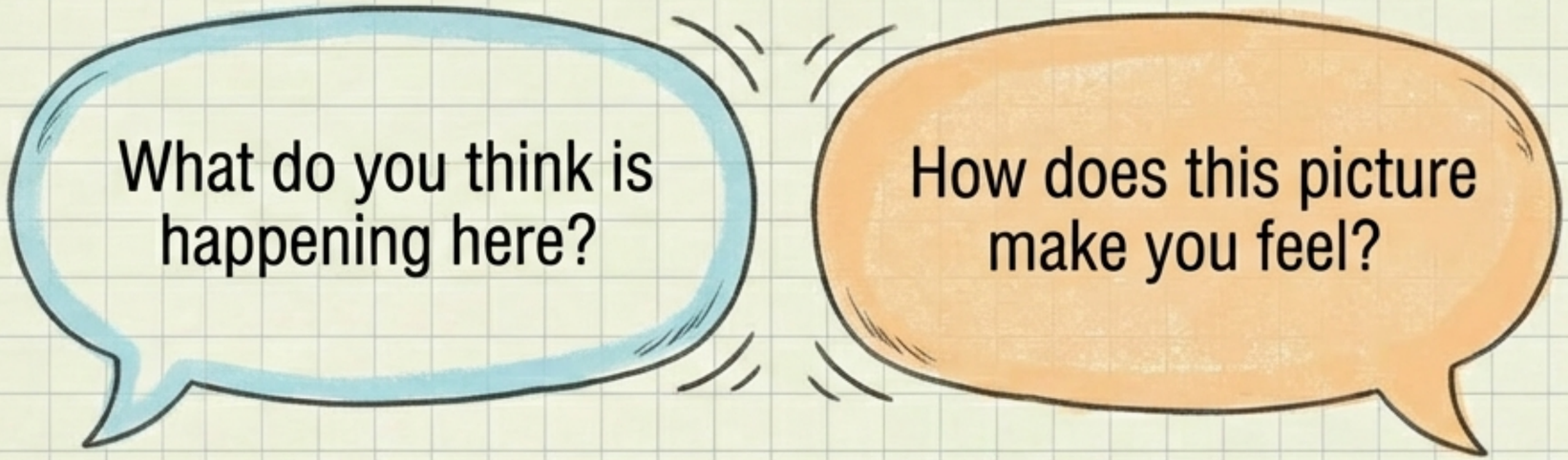
- [ ] Collect your props.
- [ ] Experiment with lighting (remember the Mood Tester!).
- [ ] Take 3-6 photos that match your storyboard.

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Step 3: The Critique

Story Critique (20 Mins)

Share your photo story with your family.



See if they understand your story without you explaining it first.
That is the power of photography!

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Test Your Vision

Q: Why don’t you need an expensive camera?



A: Because creativity and technique are more important than cost.

Q: What is a ‘Photo Story’?



A: A series of photos that work together to tell a narrative.

Q: How can you change the emotion of a photo?



A: By adjusting light, composition, or timing.

Q: What can visiting museums teach us?



A: How photography documents history and different perspectives.

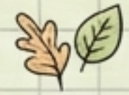
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Continue the Journey

Extension Ideas



- **Day in My Life:** Create a story showing your daily routine.



- **Seasonal Story:** Document the changes in nature (e.g., Autumn leaves).

UK Resources



- **Tate Galleries:** For photography exhibits and workshops.



- **Royal Parks:** Perfect places to practise wildlife photos.



- **National Portrait Gallery:** For inspiring exhibitions.



- **BBC History:** Explore photo stories in archives.

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The World is Full of Stories
The World is Full of Stories
Photography helps us see the world through other people's eyes.
It captures moments that might otherwise be forgotten.
You have the tools. You know the techniques.
Go capture your story.
Aperture: F/2.8
ISO: 400
Shutter: 1/250
WB: Daylight
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