Storytelling Observation

Many times we hear stories from many people: our parents, friends, teachers, co-workers, etc. Some of them we really like and we can say “Oh! That was an incredible story,” but other stories that we hear we don’t like and we say, “I’m really boring of listen this story; I can’t listen anymore.” Now we can ask ourselves: What determine that we like or dislike a story? What are the most important aspects that create a good story?

For me, there are many things that make me like a story: it has many details, a good introduction that caught my attention, a good plot, a good conclusion or something that I can learn about the story, etc. For example, I remember two stories that make me think of what I like about stories.

My Math teacher, Cesar, told all the class an excellent story about him when he was 19 years old. He told us when he saved his friend of being hit by a car. He and his friend went to buy something to drink across the street. When they returned, his friend went near the street and a car with a high speed was approaching. Cesar was really afraid because he saw the car, but his friend didn’t see it, so he ran quickly and pulled back on his friend shirt and avoid the hit with the car. I really like this story because Cesar put many details in it that make me like being or see the story with my own eyes. He told us how he felt in the moment that the car was really close to his friend. For some moments, I felt like afraid too when I heard the description of Cesar about the situation that he lived. “Is really amazing how he can make us afraid of the situation too”—I think. He also caught the attention of the entire classroom because he started his story with this phrase: “What would you do in a situation where you have to save one of your best friends?” I really like a story that catch my attention at the beginning like Cesar’s story did. Also, he has a really good organization of his ideas; it wasn’t confused. He started his story with an explanation of the day, what they were doing in that moment. Then he explained when they were going to the store and, finally he ended his story with something that we can learn about it. I really like his story so much!

The other story that I remember was of a friend of mine call Alberto. His story was about a fracture in his arm when he has in a soccer match. Honestly, I didn’t like very much his story. It was really confuse and boring. He didn’t show me the story; he just told me it without many details; for example, when he was talking about the match he only said that he felt to the ground and broke his arm, so he didn’t put more details that can showed me how was the match, if somebody push him down or himself felt to the ground; it was no clearly. At the beginning he didn’t catch my attention; I didn’t feel like I was in the story like I felt in Cesar’s story.

Comparing those two stories I think about the question of what I like about stories and what makes them good and interesting stories. I like that people who tell stories make a good organization of the events that help the readers or listener to understand the story and what’s going on it. I hear some stories that are very confused, like Alberto’s, and it makes people lost the focus of attention in your story. It would be boring and the people didn’t want to listen to you again telling a story, and nobody wants that to occur. I like
that a story catch my attention at the beginning with a good introduction of what is going to happen along the story or something that make me want to know about the rest of it. Also, I like that a story teach me something and the end, something that I will take for my life, or some good phrase or question that make me think about it. I think that most of the good stories have interesting plots and many details because with more details the story is more vivid and the readers can enjoy it a lot. I like a story with some dialogues between characters because is more interesting reading a story with dialogues that one without them, and, of course, you can know more about the character and his/her particular characteristics. A writer has to think about involve the reader with the story not only tell a story. Always remember “Show, don’t tell” (Smith).

For me, good stories are made of many details, dialogues, organization, interesting introduction that catch our attention, interesting characters, situation that make a vivid story that everyone will want to read in his free time. This can sound difficult but like this you can make an excellent story that will satisfied the readers and will always remember you like a good storyteller and always want to hear or read your stories. Don’t you want that?