



## Press Release

### Once Upon A Story - Storytelling cards

The **Once Upon A Story - Storytelling Cards** are cards of creative storytelling which stimulate children's imagination while at the same time helping them develop their oral and narrative speech; to cultivate their imaginations; and to enrich their vocabulary and their creative thought.

They are made up of cards created by the well-known in the area of childrens books - illustrator and writer **Liana Denezaki**, along with **Manos Krokos** designer and developer.

Each box contains 49 cards in seven categories, each one having one of the colours of the rainbow. The children 'read' the pictures they see and through them create their own stories. From speech they can then pass to the written word and from thence to painting and illustrating their stories or even at home with their parents and friends or at school with their teachers and other pupils.

The story cards can be found online and at any bookshop large or small all over Greece.

At present these cards are available:

1. **Fantasy Island** (Fiction)
2. **Magic Kingdom** (Emotion recognition and management)
3. **Snout Stories** (Love for animals)
4. **Fairytale Salad** (Fiction)
5. **Fairytale Land** (Fiction)
6. **Mythology** (Fiction)
7. **Mythology** (Mythology in English)

The **Once Upon A Story - Storytelling Cards** are suitable for children between the ages of 3 -12 years old.

#### **The idea**

The idea belongs to the writer, designer and developer, **Manos Krokos** and to the writer and illustrator **Liana Denezaki**. They created the **Once Upon A Story - Storytelling Cards** together to make a tool which would help children develop specific abilities through play.

## Scientific basis

**Dr. Zoe Krokou** is responsible for the scientific editing/overseeing of the **Once Upon A Story - Storytelling Cards**. Dr. Krokou is a specialist in Childrens Special Educational Needs and has undertaken to ensure that the cards have a particular pedagogical structure and to create an educational programme with them. She underwrites the theoretical documentation of the material, and through workshops and publications helps integrate it into the educational process so that the imagination receives the value and respect it deserves. It should stop being solely the preserve of artists, or even worse as an example of immaturity in adults and children and be recognised as having equal importance with mathematics, languages and physics.

## A tool for educators / speech therapists / special education teachers/child psychologists

The **Once Upon A Story - Storytelling Cards** are not just creative games, but a tool in the hands of educators, speech therapists, special education teachers and child psychologists, because through the process of the stories' creation they can explore each child's abilities and work with specific techniques.

The story cards were scientifically documented by Dr. Zoe Krokou based on fairy tale characters analysed by the Russian scholar Vladimir Propp\* and allow children to work out themselves the way the heroes will act, through their previous reading experience, as well as through the images themselves, which they can use to tell their own unique story.

Through guided storytelling children gain in confidence as images help them to follow a time-line of events, which activates their imagination and nurtures their creative thinking.

The **Once Upon A Story - Storytelling Cards** are aimed at pre-school and school-age children and can be used either with their teacher, parents or guardians, and their friends, but they can also 'play' with them on their own. The pictures/cards of the educational material can be used in the classroom individually, in storytelling groups and with the participation of all children in the classroom.

*\* In 1928 the Russian scholar Vladimir Propp analyzed the plot of 100 of the country's fairy tales to identify the simplest narrative elements. His main aim was the writing of "Morphology of the Fairy Tale" to scientifically substantiate the similarities between the fairy tales of different countries.*

For more information on the **Once Upon A Story - Storytelling Cards**:

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