

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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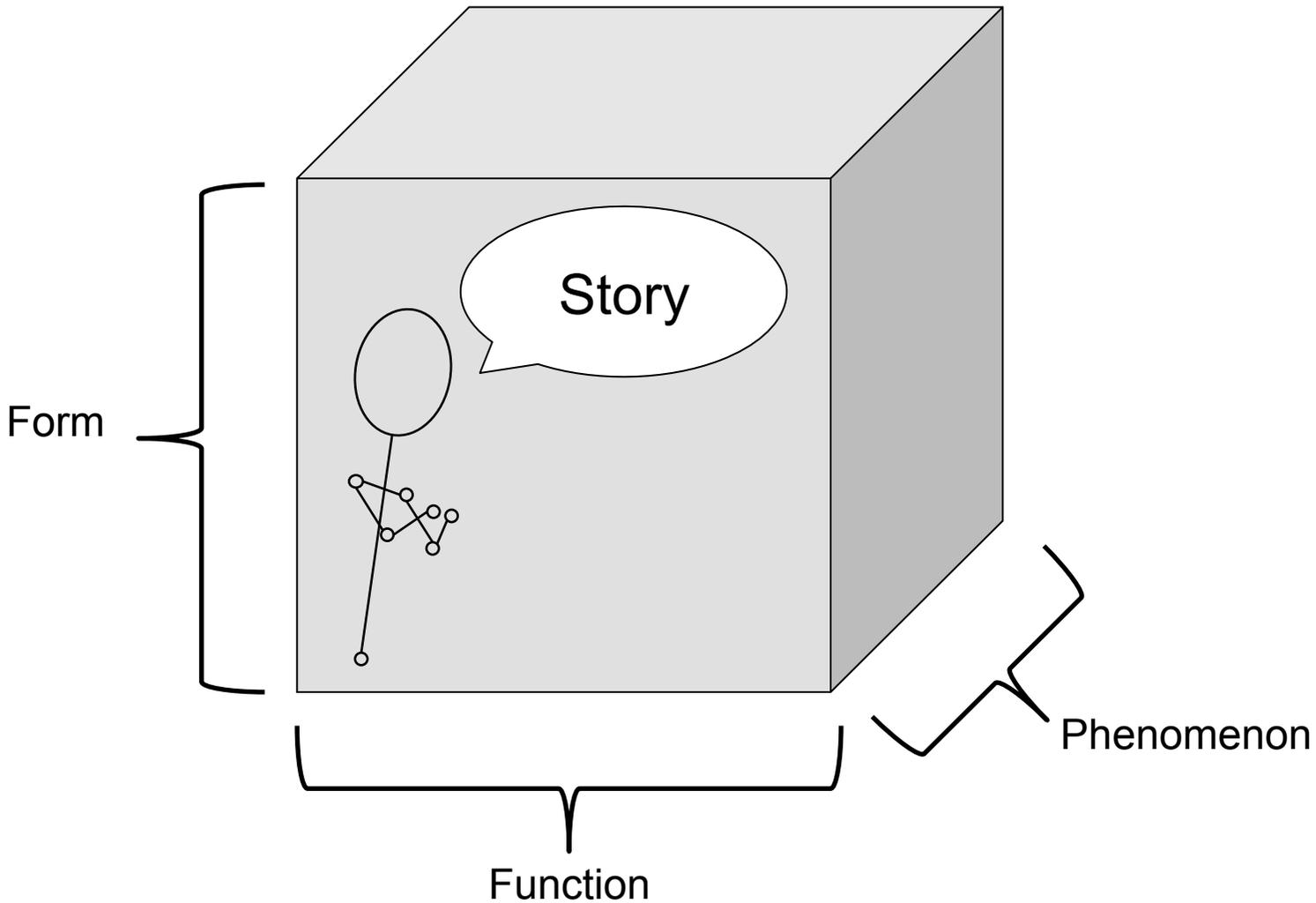
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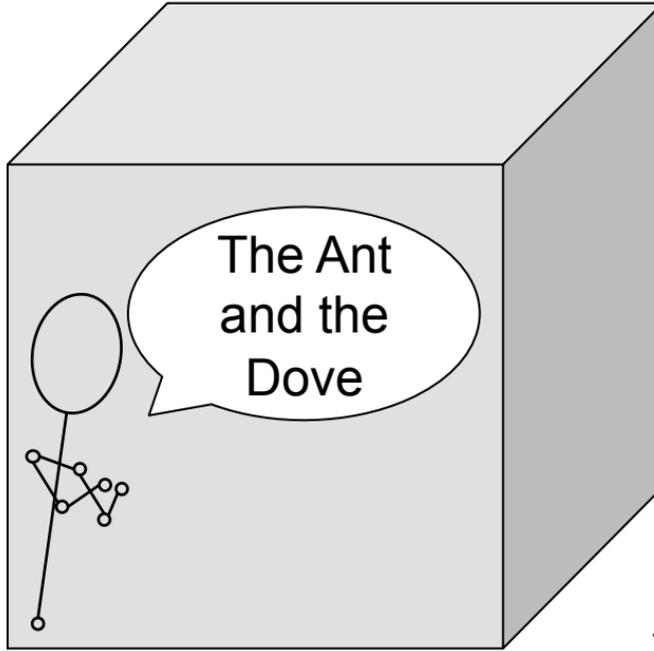
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Form

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



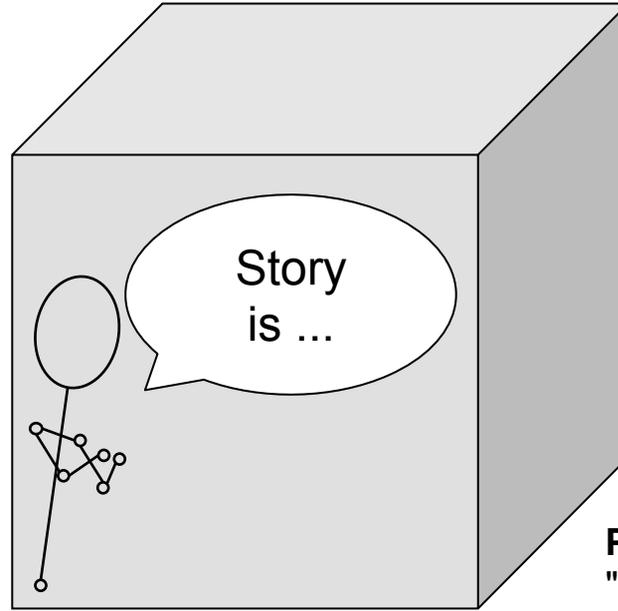
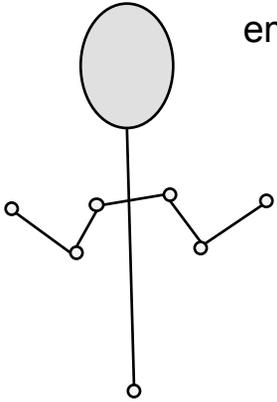
Function

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

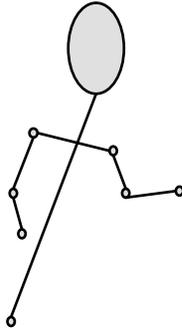
Phenomenon

- 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)

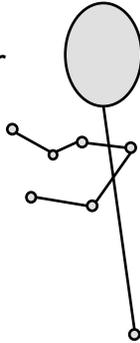
Form
"Structure is a selection
of events . . . composed
into a strategic sequence
to arouse specific
emotions. . . ."



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)

