



Notes

# STORIES

This lesson helps you understand the importance of fictional and biographical stories. You will also learn how to make the signing of these two types of stories interesting and effective. In this lesson, we discuss stories. They can be fictional stories based on people's lives; real or biographies based on real people's lives.

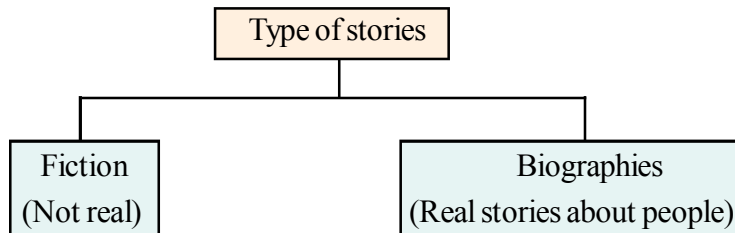


Figure-12.1 : Type of stories



## OUTCOMES

After studying this lesson, learner:

- appreciates stories in ISL.
- list and appreciates deaf people in India and abroad as Role Models.
- describes enhanced creative imagination.

## Creative Expressions in ISL



Notes

- explains abstract concepts, philosophy/thoughts based on stories.
- describes values, respect, and positive emotions in stories.

### 12.1 MORAL STORIES/FABLES

Many ISL stories are aimed at young children and among these stories, moral stories and fables, which teach the basic truth about life, are some of the most popular. This is also true for hearing children in India. These stories are good for promoting important social values.



Figure-12.2 : Moral Stories

As you can see,

- ❖ Stories for children usually have a bright visual background with cartoon drawings
- ❖ Signers in these stories often use exaggerated signs i.e. they use more space and sign more slowly

- ❖ Sometimes signers also interact with the characters drawn in the drawings
- ❖ We can see very expressive ‘role shift’ between characters (that is, the signer acts like the ant or the grasshopper with their own body)
- ❖ Little to no fingerspelling is used.

## 12.2 BIOGRAPHIES

An example of a story for older children or for adults is a biography (a story about a person’s life). By reading these non-fiction stories, deaf people learn about history and culture. Example: Gandhi’s biography.

## Creative Expressions in ISL



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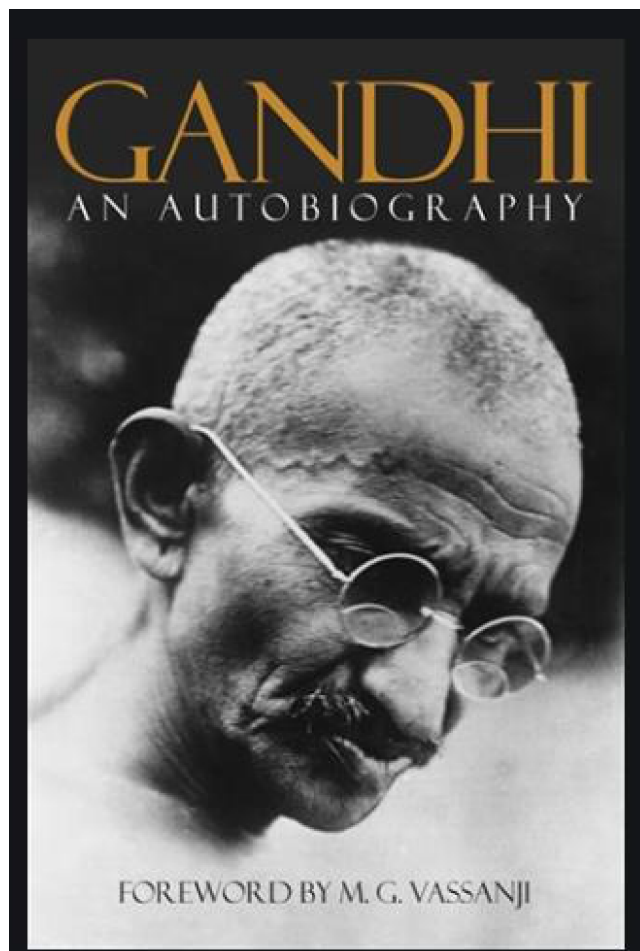


Figure-12.3 : Biography

## Creative Expressions in ISL



### Notes

- Here, the signing is faster.
- The background is simple.
- Some supporting images are used on the screen to the left of the signer.
- More fingerspelling is used for clarity because older deaf people can read some fingerspelling, unlike young children.
- Numbers are used to convey more precise dates in history.

For the deaf community, it is also important to tell stories about famous deaf people, whether from India or other countries. This makes deaf people feel proud.

Both story types, children's stories and biographies, are narratives, which mean they want to involve the viewer in something that people or animals are doing, and characters acting in the story are important. Stories are also told in time order where actions and scenes follow each other. Many stories follow a time-based order in which one thing happens after another. It is important that the details of the story are told in the right order, or the story will not make sense.



### INTEXT QUESTIONS 12.1

1. What is aim of ISL moral stories?
2. What is Biography?
3. How deaf may feel pride of themselves?
4. True/False
  - a. It is okay to use a lot of fingerspelling in ISL stories for kids. (True/False)
  - b. Signing is faster in moral stories and slow in biographies. (True/False)
  - c. Biographies usually have a bright visual background with cartoon drawings. (True/False)
  - d. Background should be simple in ISL stories for deaf children. (True/False)



### WHAT YOU HAVE LEARNT

- Stories can be made-up (fictional) or biographical (life stories of real people). Both these stories involve the viewers what the characters; people or animals in the stories are doing.
- Moral stories have a lesson at the end and help pass on social values to children. These stories are called fables and are for both hearing and deaf kids.
- Stories for children are signed differently. Signing is slow, large and signers do 'role shift'. No or very little fingerspelling is used.
- Visually these stories have bright coloured backgrounds and cartoon drawings.
- Through non-fiction or biographical stories, children learn history, culture and life stories of famous deaf and hearing people. Deaf people feel proud and inspired knowing the life stories of famous deaf people.
- Non-fiction stories are signed a little fast, more finger spelling and a simple background. Some visual images are used to support the facts. Numbers are used to tell the time and dates of events.



### TERMINAL EXERCISE

1. What do stories for children typically look like?
2. What is the difference between ISL moral stories and biography?
3. Why is it important to tell stories about famous deaf people?
4. What is 'role shift' between characters when signing stories? Give an example.
5. According to your understanding describe the use of ISL stories.
6. Explain all the important points about signing biographies in ISL for the deaf community?



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Creative Expressions  
in ISL

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**ANSWERS TO INTEXT QUESTIONS****12.1**

1. To teach the basic truths life and to promote important social values.
2. Biography is a real story about a person's life.
3. To tell stories about famous deaf makes them feel pride of deaf community/ themselves.
4.
  - a. False
  - b. False
  - c. False
  - d. False