



## PARTICIPATORY STORIES

### Eleanor (5-6 age group)

#### Learning objectives

This story is made up of 3 sheets that get more complex narratively as the children progress. Going from one level (sheet) to the next and working in small groups or pairs, the children will enrich the story of Eleanor with adjectives, verbs and finally create their own ending to the story.

## STORY BASE

Read the simple version of the story to children (the story base). Read expressively and emphasise key words (such as **court, cultured, elegant, portrait**). Then have the pupils work in groups or in pairs to enrich the story base.

Eleanor of Toledo, daughter of the viceroy of Naples, left Naples to marry Duke Cosimo I de' Medici in Florence. They had never seen each other before. Eleanor made a long journey by ship together with her brother and the court. As soon as she reached Pisa, she went by horse and halfway there met Cosimo who had gone to receive her. They were young and beautiful and they fell in love at first sight. The city of Florence had been festively prepared for Eleanor's arrival, the celebrations lasted for days and days. Eleanor and Cosimo were very happy together as they transformed the city and their home into a royal court. Eleanor was beautiful, intelligent, and very cultured, but she preferred to speak Spanish instead of Florentine. The inhabitants of Florence were not very pleased but forgave her because she did many things for the children and the poor of the city. Cosimo would not make any decision unless he consulted with Eleanor first and when he was away, Eleanor made all the decisions on her own. Eleanor died during a journey she undertook to join Cosimo, who had decided to reclaim some lands. Even today, everyone remembers her for her intelligence and beauty.

## LEVEL 1: WHAT ARE THEY LIKE? (ADJECTIVES)

Working in groups and pairs, pupils should enrich the story base with adjectives. The words in **blue** are suggestions – depending on the proficiency level of your pupils, decide on the number of adjectives that you would like to add before each of the targeted nouns. We recommend children choose at least 1 adjective.

**Graceful/elegant/cultured** Eleanor of Toledo, daughter of the **powerful/famous/important** viceroy of Naples, left Naples to marry the **handsome/brave/kind** Duke Cosimo I de' Medici in Florence. They had never seen each other before. Eleanor made a long **dangerous/adventurous/peaceful** journey by ship together with her brother and the court. As soon as she reached Pisa, she went by horse and halfway there met Cosimo who had gone to receive her. They were young and beautiful and they fell in love at first sight. The **big/rich/noisy** city of Florence had been festively prepared for Eleanor's arrival, the celebrations lasted for days and days. Eleanor and Cosimo were very happy together as they transformed the city and their **stately/comfortable/refined** home into a royal court. Eleanor was

beautiful, intelligent and very cultured, but she preferred to speak Spanish instead of Florentine. The inhabitants of Florence were not very pleased but forgave her because she did many **kind/generous/selfless** things for the children and the poor of the city. Cosimo would not make any decision unless he consulted with **witty/wise/brilliant** Eleanor first and when he was away, Eleanor made all the decisions on her own. Eleanor died during a journey she undertook to join Cosimo, who had decided to reclaim some **distant/foreign/dry** lands. Even today, everyone remembers her for her **great/profound/acute** intelligence and beauty.

## LEVEL 2: WHAT THEY ARE DOING? (VERBS)

Working in their group or pair, pupils should now enrich the text with verbs. Help children write and read them along with the adjectives that they already wrote for the Level 1 sheet. The words in **yellow** are suggestions – depending on the proficiency level of your pupils, we recommend children write at least 1 verb.

**Graceful/elegant/cultured** Eleanor of Toledo, daughter of the **powerful/famous/important** viceroy of Naples, left, **said goodbye** to Naples to marry and **kiss** the **handsome/brave/kind** Duke Cosimo I de' Medici in Florence. They had never seen each other before. Eleanor made a long **dangerous/adventurous/peaceful** journey by ship together with her brother and the court. As soon as she reached Pisa, she went by horse **fanning herself from** the heat and halfway there met Cosimo who had gone to receive her. They were young and beautiful and they fell in love at first sight. The **big/rich/noisy** city of Florence had been festively prepared for Eleanor's arrival, the celebrations lasted for days and days. Eleanor and Cosimo were very happy together as they transformed the city and their

**stately/comfortable/refined** home into a royal court. Eleanor was beautiful, intelligent and very cultured, but she preferred **to dance flamenco** and to speak Spanish instead of Florentine. The inhabitants of Florence were not very pleased but forgave her and **loved her anyway** because she did many **kind/generous/ selfless** things for the children and the poor of the city. Cosimo would not make any decision unless he consulted with **witty/wise/brilliant** Eleanor first and when he was away or **did not know what to do**, Eleanor made all the decisions on her own. Eleanor died during a journey she undertook to join Cosimo, who had decided to reclaim some **distant/foreign/dry** lands. Even today, everyone remembers and **talks about** her for her **great/profound/acute** intelligence and beauty.

## LEVEL 3: HOW DOES IT END? (YOUR OWN ENDING)

Working in their group or pair, pupils should now enrich the text by expanding on the ending. Help children write and read the ending sentence(s) along with the adjectives and verbs that they already wrote for the Level 1 and Level 2 sheets. The sentences in **purple** are suggestions – depending on the proficiency level of your pupils, we recommend children write at least 1 sentence to enrich the ending.

**Graceful/elegant/cultured** Eleanor of Toledo, daughter of the **powerful/famous/important** viceroy of Naples, left, **said goodbye** to Naples to marry and **kiss** the **handsome/brave/kind** Duke Cosimo I de' Medici in Florence. They had never seen each other before. Eleanor made a long **dangerous/adventurous/peaceful** journey by ship together with her brother and the court. As soon as she reached Pisa, she went by horse **fanning herself from** the heat and halfway there met Cosimo who had gone to receive her. They were young and beautiful and they fell in love at first sight. The **big/rich/noisy** city of Florence had been festively prepared for Eleanor's arrival, the celebrations lasted

for days and days. Eleanor and Cosimo were very happy together as they transformed the city and their **stately/comfortable/refined** home into a royal court. Eleanor was beautiful, intelligent and very cultured, but she preferred **to dance flamenco** and to speak Spanish instead of Florentine. The inhabitants of Florence were not very pleased but forgave her and **loved her anyway** because she did many **kind/generous/ selfless** things for the children and the poor of the city. Cosimo would not make any decision unless he consulted with **witty/wise/brilliant** Eleanor first and when he was away or **did not know what to do**, Eleanor made all the decisions on her own. Eleanor died during a journey she undertook to join Cosimo, who had decided to reclaim some **distant/foreign/dry** lands. Even today, everyone remembers and **talks about** her for her **great/profound/acute** intelligence and beauty.

1. Eleanor lived in a time when women were not allowed to do many things but she demonstrated that women can do anything.
2. Eleanor's clothes were so beautiful that they were the inspiration to create a fashion collection.

**The end!**