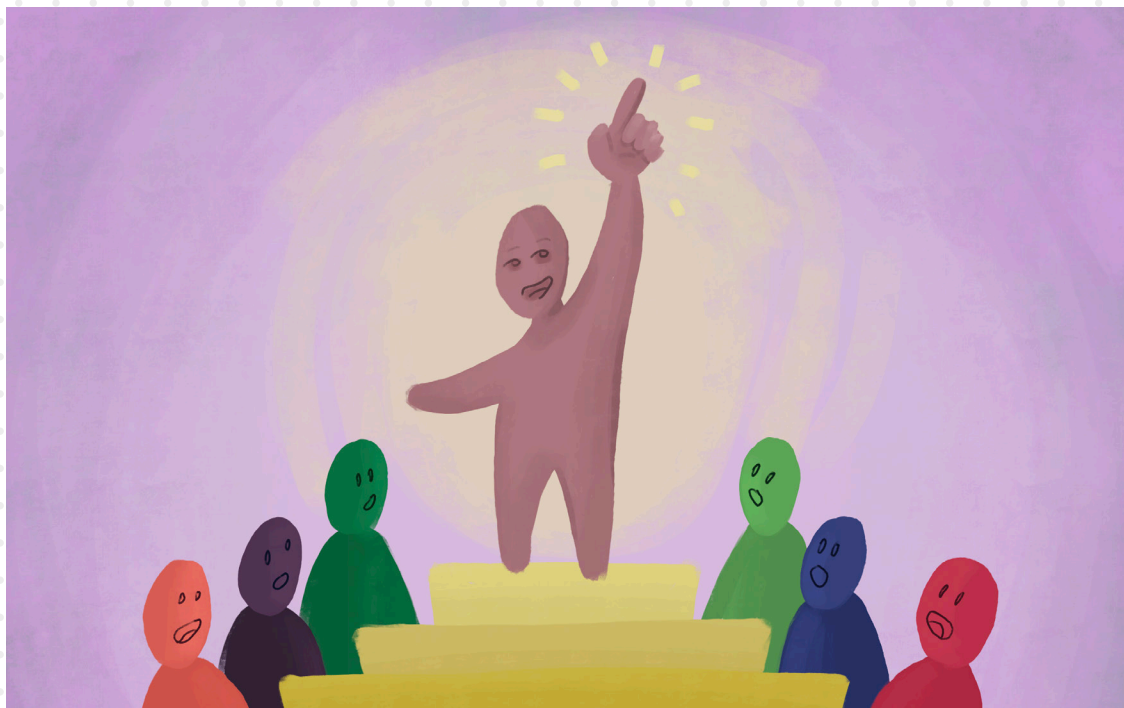


Story Bones – Tops



Another day in the classroom. Another question by the teacher that none of the students knew the answer to. Tops usually were sure, but not totally this time. She raised her hand anyway and gave it a try.

But she was wrong, and both her classmates, who had just been cheering her on, and the teacher laughed at her. Tops was by herself all recess and got her shoes wet in a big puddle of water. Once again, the other kids laughed at her. Tops went home sad, only to experience her mother laughing at her as well. Tops swore that she would never leave her room again!

But from the window in her room, Tops witnessed how a young child learned to walk by trying, falling, and keeping on trying.

She began investigating how both nature and businesses adapt to the fact that it takes many attempts to achieve a breakthrough—and that one learns from mistakes, as well as from acknowledging them.

Tops returned to school and suggested to their teacher that the class should celebrate mistakes with an Olympics of mistakes.

Playing Possibilities - Make groups of students choose their own

- Pupils design medals or trophies for olympics of mistakes (e.g. "Best Big Try," "Bravest Fail," "Most Curious Question"). You can even create a "Wall of Brave Tries".
- Go outside or around the school to observe examples of "trying again": a tree growing through pavement, a broken toy that was repaired, etc.
- Reflect on how nature, people, and even technology grow by trying again. Organise silly and safe mini-games where making mistakes is part of the fun. E.g.: Backwards spelling races. Guess-the-wrong-answer quizzes. Blind drawing challenges. "Wrong song" karaoke (sing the wrong lyrics)
- Research inventions from different EU countries that came from "happy accidents" (e.g. Post-it Notes, penicillin, Velcro). Create a "Mistake Olympics Map of Europe" showing where the best cool ideas were born from unexpected errors