

# The Values of the Comenius Association

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Roadmap for the Future 22 May 2019

3-4pm

By the end of the dialogue we should  
be able to :

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- articulate in a few words our agreed values as an association
- inform our activity and vision with a set of shared values
- know why we are doing the things we do

# Introduction (Pairs)

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- What do we currently do as an association?
- Make a list
- Share

We need to have an underpinning philosophy explaining why we are doing things that guides our actions.

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“When we talk about values we have in mind the goods, ends and ideals by which we understand who we are and explain what we do”

“...it is a deepened and refined self knowledge...it is a civic good”

“Knowing who we are and what we care about makes us more meaningfully and surefootedly engaged in civic and political life.”

(Hajnal and Nørgaard)

# So the question that faces us is:

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- What is our common philosophy? What are our values?
- How are our mission, strategies and activity based on values?
- How do we live the values?

... so this is about our identity and our character as an association

# Starting our thinking (Groups

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In groups of 3:

- What are the first 5 words that spring to mind when you are asked to describe the Comenius Association?
- What is it that we do best?
- What makes us different?
- What would you like others to think of us?

# Values of other institutions

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Cambridge University

## **Mission**

- The mission of the University of Cambridge is to contribute to society through the pursuit of education, learning and research at the highest international levels of excellence.

## **Core values**

- The University's core values are as follows:
- freedom of thought and expression
- freedom from discrimination

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## **Education**

- the encouragement of a questioning spirit
- an extensive range of academic subjects in all major subject groups
- quality and depth of provision across all subjects
- the close inter-relationship between teaching, scholarship, and research
- strong support for individual researchers as well as research groups
- residence in Cambridge as central to most courses
- education which enhances the ability of students to learn throughout life

# Olin Education

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- Integrity
- Respect for others
- Passion for the welfare of the college
- patience and understanding
- openness to change
- quality and continuous improvement
- institutional integrity and community
- institutional agility and entrepreneurship
- stewardship and service

# Open University

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In achieving our vision and mission, we remain true to a clearly defined set of core values

- **Inclusive** – playing a unique role in society by making higher education open to all and promoting social justice through the development of knowledge and skills
- **Innovative** – leading the learning revolution, placing innovation at the heart of our teaching and research, continuously seeking new and better ways to inspire and enable learning, and creating world-class research and teaching.
- **Responsive** – to the needs of individuals, employers and communities and dedicated to supporting our student's learning success.

# Defining what values are

ethical living requires:

- A set of principles that guide behaviour and decisions.
- Applying principles to practice
- Carry a sense of moral duty and obligation and universal moral value we should ascribe to
- Affects our beliefs and the way we shape our lives
- **Kant** 1724-1804 knowing and applying rules
- **Mill** 1806-73 calculating and choosing consequences:
- **Aristotle** 384-322 developing and enacting *virtues*

(Goddard, A. 2019 )

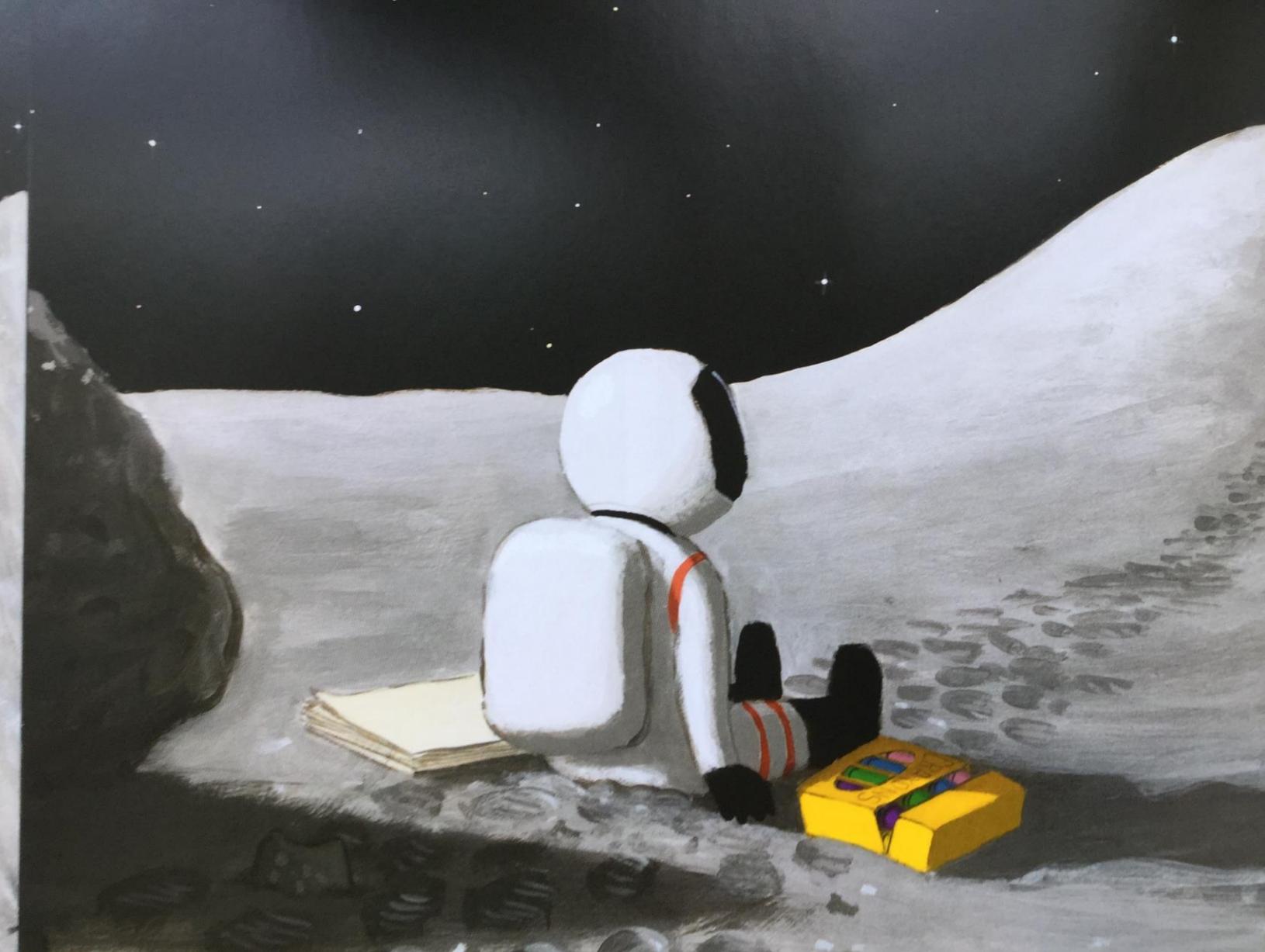
# Separating the three strands out

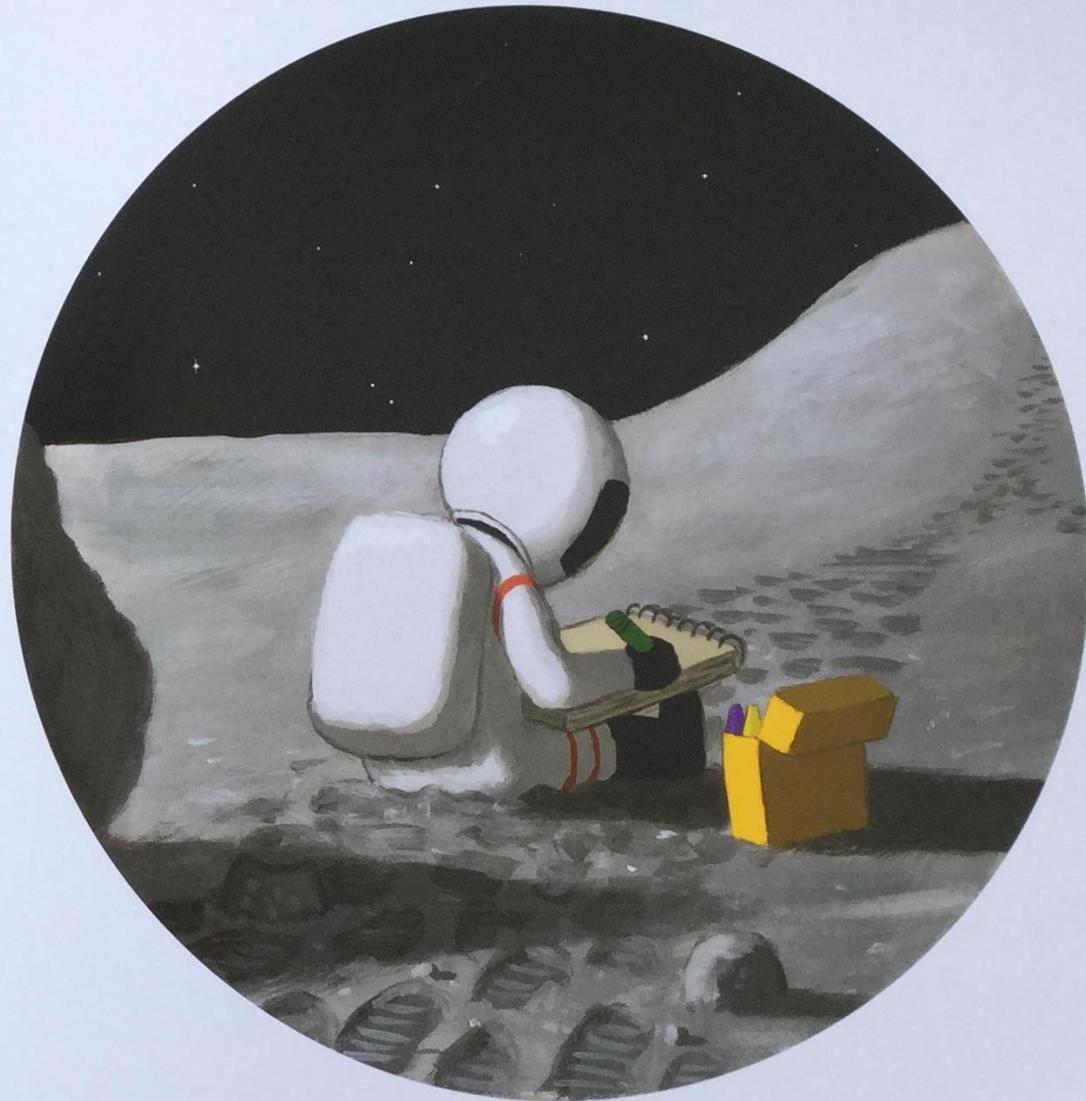


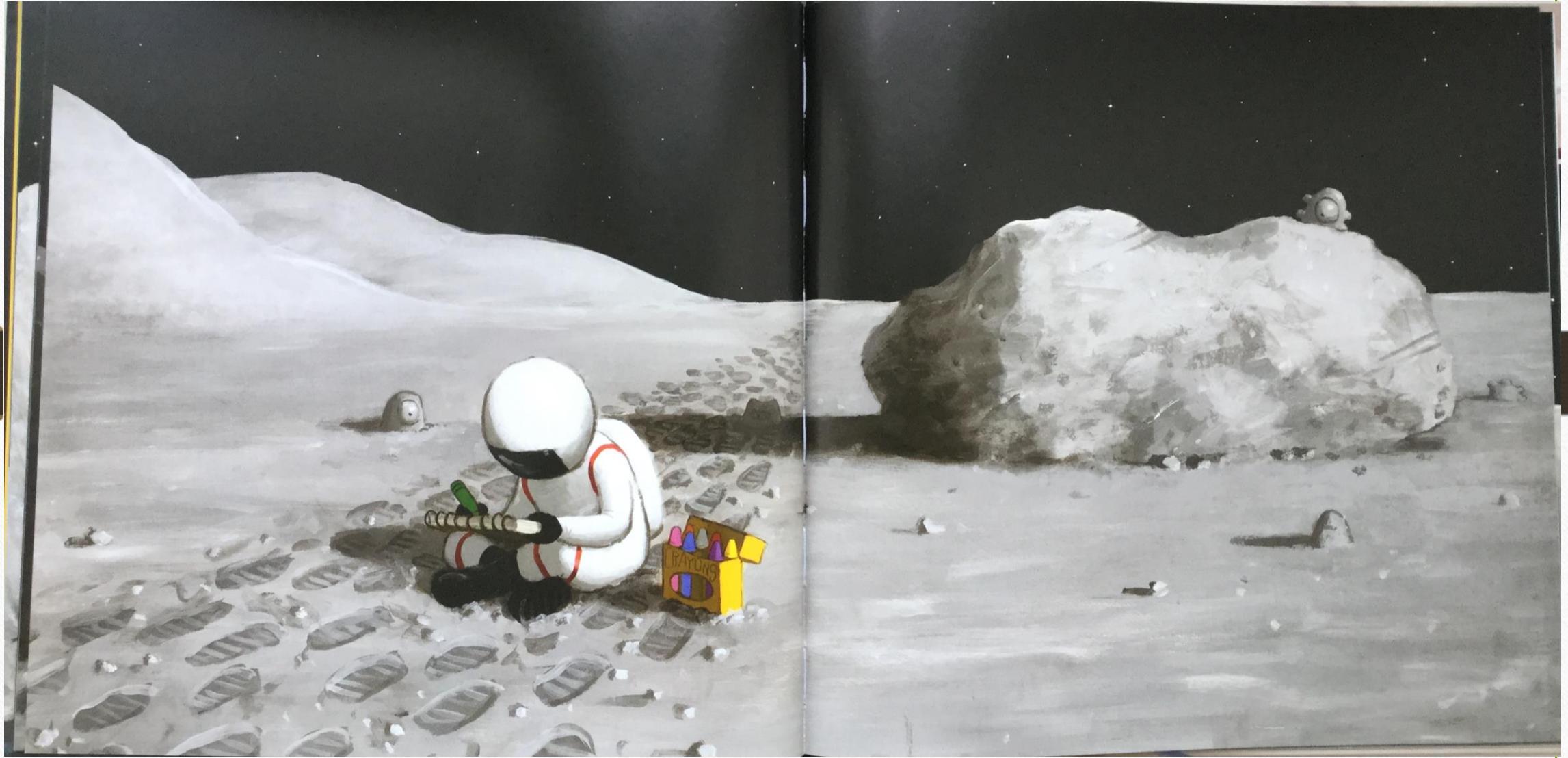
- **Mission** - we promote, we seek, we believe we are committed to
- **Vision** – we aim to ....through our...
- **Values** – we are...

Before we discuss in groups, A snapshot of what we do as an association...

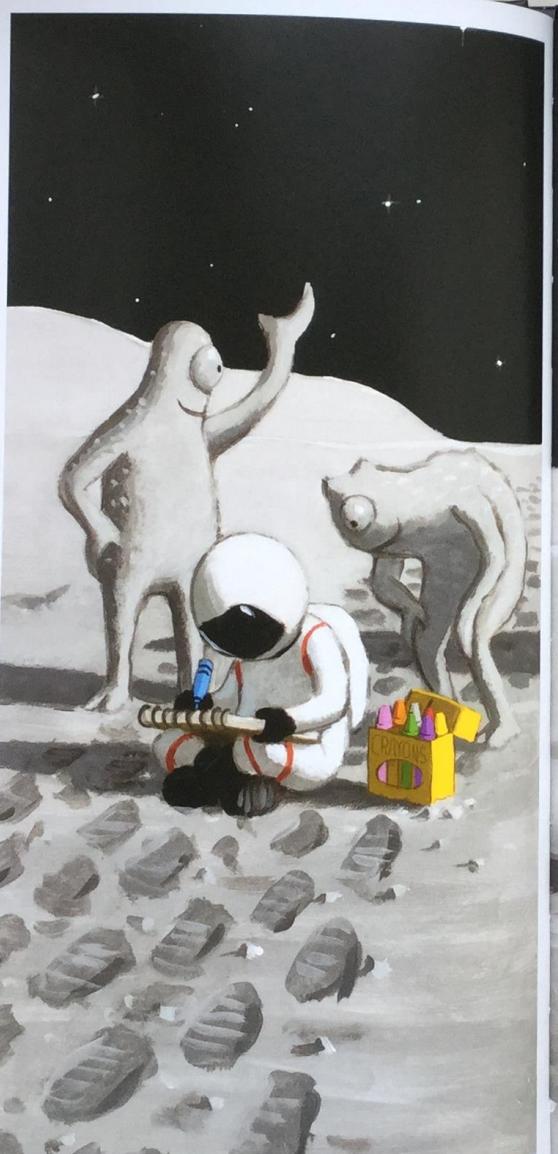
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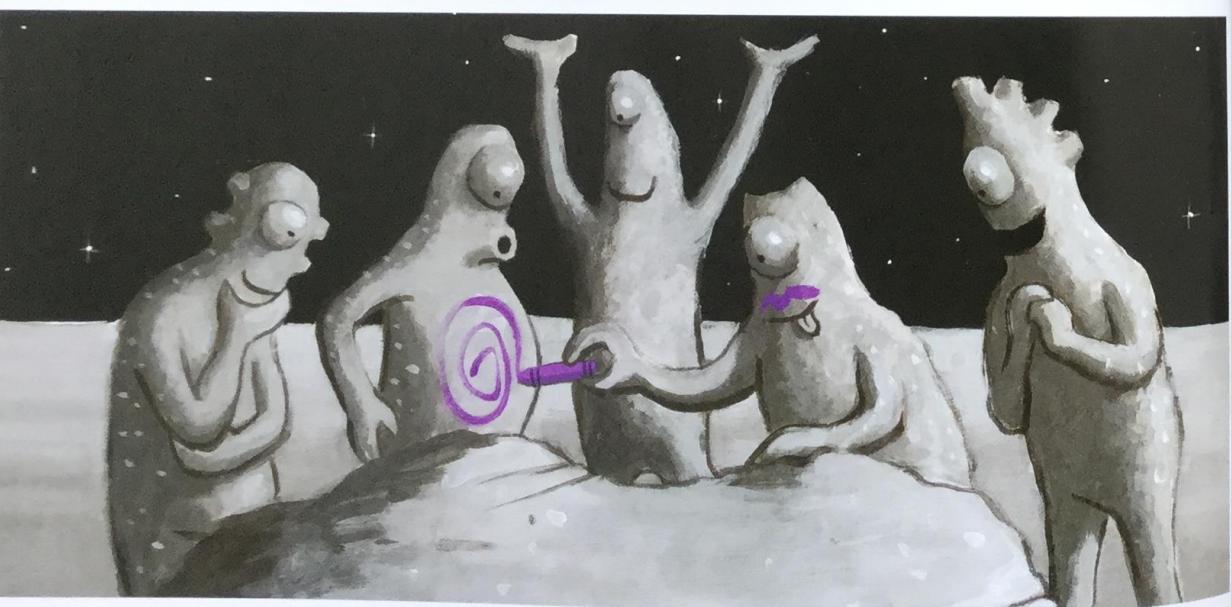


















How can we relate this story to our present Comenius Association philosophy?

# Our philosophy at the moment

**'To be an active member of the Comenius Association requires respect of a common philosophy'**

What is our common philosophy?

- **contribute** to furthering the intercultural dimension in training
- **appreciate** our differences
- **understand** other cultures
- **open** up to the intercultural dimension in Europe as teachers.

- **develop** a distinctive cultural competence
- **encourage** future teachers to go beyond “ethnocentric culture”
- **facilitate** the different levels of coordination,
- **exchange** information
- **question** the basic principles of the intercultural dimension
- **organise** basic training and continuity in our teachers

## Brainstorm

In groups of 3 work around 5 of the stations

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Reflection on existing values –what does this say about our identity? How is it still relevant?

New thinking – who are we now? Who do we want to be?

# Summarise

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- What are the most important things that you have thought
  - Share: You have one minute only
- Fashion a brief draft statement of values
  - Try to draw together some key threads



Close and thank you...