



Thoughts on Storytelling From “Big Think” Interviews

You are about to listen to four interviews with a diverse group of people: a world-renowned author, an award-winning filmmaker, a highly successful entrepreneur, and an acclaimed neuroscientist.

What do these four professionals have in common? A shared belief in the power and necessity of storytelling.

As you listen to the following interviews, ponder the purpose and impact of storytelling. That is, why is storytelling a cultural imperative? Why do people grasp for stories? How do narratives shape us? Take notes on these and other ideas as you listen. Be prepared to discuss your thoughts.

Salman Rushdie, Author “Video Games and the Future of Storytelling”

How does technology have the potential to change storytelling?

What concern does Rushdie have about the impact of technology on humans as storytellers, readers, and thinkers?

Other Notes:

Peter Guber, Chairman and CEO of Mandalay Entertainment Group
“How Storytelling Can Save Your Life”

How does Guber relate being a “BSer” to his entrepreneurial success?

What does Guber believe about the essential, historical purposes for storytelling?

Other Notes:

Ken Burns, Documentary Filmmaker
“History as Good Storytelling”

How does Burns reconcile documentary filmmaking, which is thought of as objective and unbiased, with good storytelling?

What does Burns believe about editing and its role in storytelling?

Other Notes:

Michael Gazzaniga, Neuroscientist
“Your Storytelling Brain”

How does Gazzaniga connect storytelling to his studies of the brain?

What does Gazzaniga have to say about the “storytelling animal” of humanity and the purpose of narrative?

Other Notes: