UNIT 12. Make It Up As You Go (Lesson2)

- Idioms about story telling
- Telling anecdotes
- Discussion questions
- Review

1. Collocations about storytelling

(1) The story of my life

- Every time I meet a nice guy, it turns out he has a girlfriend. **Story of my life.**
- I was late for another appointment, but then that's the **story of my life.**

(2) Truth is stranger than fiction

- I didn't exaggerate the details at all.
- I know it sounds ridiculous but it's all completely true. **Truth is stranger than fiction** don't you think?

(3) You reap what you sow

- It seems that the things you do every day strongly affect you later in life, **you reap what you sow** as they say.

- Well he didn't study enough, he didn't try as hard as he could so he failed the test. **You reap what you sow** after all.

(4) A tall tale

- Don't believe a word they say, they're always telling **tall tales.**
- My parents love to tell **tall tales** of when they were younger and what life was like back then. It's pretty hard to believe.

2. Making inferences

(1) Describe an embarrassing moment

- **Once**, when I was running around the park I saw an old high school friend in the distance with his girlfriend. I wanted to surprise him so I when I got to him I jumped on him with a big hug, but then I **suddenly realised** it was a stranger. We were all so shocked and **embarrassed** so I apologised and then ran away as quickly as possible. It sounds like a **tall tale** but it's unfortunately true.

(2) A happy or proud moment

- **There was once** a really simple but happy moment for me, the memory is my **pride and joy**. When I looked after a man who had a broken spine, I carefully explained to him his condition and dedications but also made him laugh and told him jokes. When he left the hospital he wrote a letter complaining how awful the hospitals' services were and how it was almost the worst experience of his life except for me and for the care I gave him. I was congratulated for my work by my superiors. I certainly **reaped what I had sown.**

(3) A very bad date

- "I went on a blind date with a guy who couldn't stop **boasting** & **showing off** about his company. His **fashion sense** was terribly poor and he smelled awfully of cigarettes and alcohol. **I couldn't stand it** anymore so I made an excuse that **something had come up** and that I had to leave early. **Story of my life**."

3. Discussion questions

Q: What seems to happen to you all the time? In other words, what's the story of your life?

For me, whenever I line up to purchase something at the supermarket, the store, or at the cinema my line always takes the longest. **Story of my life.** I hate queueing, so rather than getting in the queue I preorder things online.

Q: How much do people exaggerate when telling personal stories?

I think sometimes people might **blow** their personal stories a little **out of proportion.** But generally if a story is worth telling there is something about it that seems strange, ridiculous or unique so it can be worth listening to.

Q: What is the most important part of the story - the details or the conclusions?

I think every part of the story is important. The introduction, the rising action, of course the climax which is usually the most exciting part and lastly the resolution, the way it ends. Of course it takes a lot of practice to tell a good story and maybe that's the key to getting better at it, lots of practice.