



Passion Project #05:

Stories of Us: Community Storytelling & Illustration Project

This project invites students to collect short stories from individuals in their local community — stories about what it means to live, grow, or belong in that place. The stories can reflect migration, identity, tradition, change, or daily life. Once collected, the stories are illustrated by visual arts students and compiled into a book (printed or digital), becoming a portrait of the community told by its people.

*In Bahrain, the project will start by collecting diverse voices from local families, expats, and citizens who call the country home. Students will shape this into a book titled “**Bahrain Stories: Illustrated by Us.**”*

The model can then be replicated anywhere in the world — making it an adaptable framework for celebrating identity through storytelling and visual arts.

CAS Learning Outcome

How It’s Met Through This Project

1. Identify own strengths and develop areas for growth

Students identify their artistic or organizational strengths while exploring new media or community engagement.

2. Demonstrate that challenges have been undertaken

Interviewing, translating, or illustrating real stories requires sensitivity and new communication skills.

3. Initiate and plan a CAS experience

Students lead the story collection, illustration process, book layout, and final showcase.

4. Show commitment and perseverance

The book-making process requires long-term work, revisits, and deadlines.

5. Work collaboratively

Roles are divided among writers, illustrators, designers, and editors.

6. Engage with issues of global significance

Themes of identity, migration, belonging, and diversity arise organically through storytelling.

7. Recognize and consider the ethics of choices and actions

Students must honor people's stories and avoid stereotypes or misrepresentation when illustrating or editing.

Step	What to Do	Details & Examples	CAS Link
1. Understand the Purpose	Discuss the value of collecting local stories — why they matter and what we can learn from others.	Example: "Why do people choose to live in Bahrain?" or "What's a memory you'll never forget here?"	Global Awareness, Empathy
2. Divide Into Teams	Roles: Story Collectors, Interviewers, Illustrators, Designers, Translators, Editors, and Project Managers.	Rotate or collaborate. Everyone should try at least two roles.	Collaboration, Initiative
3. Collect the Stories	Interview family members, teachers, workers, neighbors, or local business owners.	Use audio recordings, photos, or written notes. Focus on one story per person.	Service, Communication
4. Curate & Select	Choose the stories that will be included in the book (or zine). Group them by theme or tone.	Themes: "First Impressions," "Festivals," "Childhood Memories," "Hardships & Hope"	Planning, Creativity
5. Illustrate the Stories	Art students or volunteers create illustrations to accompany each story.	Style can be varied: ink drawings, digital art, watercolors, etc.	Creativity, Skill Building
6. Edit & Design the Book	CAS team finalizes text, layout, visuals. Use tools like Canva, Google Slides, Adobe Express.	Add a cover, table of contents, author credits, and cultural symbols.	Planning, Media Literacy
7. Publish & Share	Launch the book as a printed zine, PDF, or digital flipbook. Host a reading, exhibit, or school event.	Distribute copies to storytellers, schools, or online. Add QR code displays around campus.	Reflection, Community Impact
8. Reflect as a Team	What did you learn about your community? What surprised you? What would you do differently?	Reflect through journals, group discussion, or a final video recap.	Reflection, Growth