



**Session 1**

**Lo Yiro – The Standing Stick**

(approx. 45 mins, age 9+)

Seckou Keita is a griot from Senegal, West Africa. Griots are musicians, singers and storytellers. You can read more about Seckou's griot tradition in the MUSIC section of these resources. In this session, Seckou recalls a game that used to be played amongst the adults in his community whenever they wanted to have a conversation without the children listening in!

**Background information**

- *Tabadabang* is a song on the album *Echo*, by Seckou Keita and Catrin Finch. The song is about this game.
- On the powerpoint there is a version of this song played by Seckou.

**The Session**

1. Introduce the word '*griot*' (pronounced gree-oh) to the group and explain the role of the griot as one who passes down stories through music and songs.
2. Explain that we are going to listen to Seckou Keita, a griot, telling us about something he experienced as a child. This game was played by adults when they wanted to have a private conversation. If you were hanging around and trying to listen in, this is the game that was played. Listen to Seckou telling the rest of the story. A video is on the powerpoint. Or tell the simpler version of the story included with the transcript.
3. Ask learners to work in pairs and re-tell the story from memory and then ask...  
*What is the main message of this story?*  
*How did it benefit Seckou in the short and long term?*
4. From here you could ask groups of learners to re-create the story as a drama. First identify the characters and then ask children to re-enact the story from memory.

**Resources**

1. Transcript of the story
2. Powerpoint with story and backing track
3. You will also need:  
A4 Paper and scissors  
Percussion instruments



**Extension Activities**

- A. Learners could use the backing track on the powerpoint. This is the music that accompanies the musical version of the Lo Yiro story. They could re-tell the story over it and or use percussion instruments to embellish the recording.
- B. You could ask learners to create a zine (a small magazine of 8 pages made from a single piece of A4 paper) and ask them to create the story using pictures and words. They will need to plan out the story so that it can be told over 6 or 7 pages (plus the cover). A quick search on Youtube will bring up how to make a zine.