

1

OPENING: from *The Castle of Crossed Destinies*, Italo Calvino (10 minutes)

. . . Cluster around tables to form groups of 5 or 6.

Silence

2 (read all of the instructions up to number 3 before beginning)

A Round of Stories: Someone in your group should take the cards from the table; study the cards. The person with the cards will then gradually lay the cards out in some order to tell a story. All of the cards do not need to be used. As the cards are laid out, they should all remain visible. They can be in any pattern—a line, a circle, anything.

Everyone else in the group should begin writing as soon as they can upon seeing the first card. The "story-teller" should take their time so that writers have enough time to get a few ideas down before the next card is laid.

Writer's should mimic Calvino's approach to narrating the meaning of the cards.

You will be stopped after 25 minutes

3

Create a deck of Billy the Kid tarot. (15 minutes)

Using the blank cards provided, create your own major arcana (arcana are the "principle" cards, like "justice," and the major players, like "the fool." There are usually about 22 of these. You don't need that many.

Before you start working on the cards, come up with an abstraction for each character and principle you want to use. For instance, instead of a "Pat Garret" card, you might have "The Assassin." As you come up with card titles, you may use ideas from the book, the movie, your own knowledge of the history, or all three. You don't need to use all of the characters listed below. You may also add your own. DON'T name a card directly after a character. You may use "The Governor" as a card, but not "Lew Wallace."

Here is a list to help you get started:

CHARACTERS	PRINCIPLES
William H. Bonney	Justice
Pat Garrett	Law
"The Drunk"	Revenge
Celsa	Murder
Angela D.	Luck
Charlie	Death
Tom	Civilization
Governor	Territory
Dolan	War
Mayor	Sun
Sallie Chisum	Animals
Pete Maxwell	



4

Use your "Billy the Kid Tarot" to lay out the story according to the movie, the book, or your own version.
(10 minutes)

Then, shuffle and *forget about Billy the Kid*.

Lay 5 -7 cards from your Billy the Kid deck out at random.

Everyone in your group should take 10 minutes to at least *start* a new story based on the new lay of cards.
(10 minutes)

5

DISCUSS AND ANSWER as a GROUP (15 minutes)

Notice that the cards, when in the service of a specific plot, are more suited to identifying a network of ideas and relationships than they are at illustrating a sequence of events...

How could the cards be used to represent a complicated sequence?

How could they be used to show dramatic changes in a situation or in relationships?

How could they be used to describe more subtle — less archetypal — narratives?

What key words and ideas about history and literature would add a new level of functionality to the cards when used to create stories (*causality* or *climax*, for instance)?

6

And...

In your group, share each of your project ideas. For each person's ideas, brainstorm a list of possible characters and principles.

Each person should then independently create a small deck of tarot cards for their project.

(25 minutes)