



Stories of Stuff

One Loose Thread
by Joshua Edwards
As told by Jackie



“We’ve done this already,” a boy in the second row of desks said, his head balancing on the pillar of his forearm.

Jackie’s wheel stopped spinning.

“You’ve probably done knitting before, but this is spinning. This is making the materials to...”

“Yeah, I know,” the boy said, “We’ve done it before.”

Jackie’s heart sank.

She thought she’d nailed it. She’d earn her teaching diploma by constructing a lesson plan based around Cynthia Harnett’s novel, the Woolpack. She’d travelled to see a woman in Bristol to teach her how to spin. She’d bought herself a spinning wheel. She’d planned trips to the Cotswolds for the class. The marriage of literature, history and textiles in one grand educational endeavour. She had this sorted.

“Who... Wha... Who’s done this with you before?” she asked.

“Mr. Meyer, from the community college. Comes in once a fortnight to teach us spinning,” Gretchin had said, from the front desk, her eyes glistening at the prospect of being helpful.

Jackie took her feet off of the treadles and put on a smile.

At the end of the term, an outside assessor came to pass or fail Jackie. He’d come down from the community college.

Mr. Meyer, in fact.

Of course, when he heard the story of her educational masterpiece, he passed her without a second thought.

And the spinning wheel never stopped.

Stories of Stuff is a community arts project discovering the stories inspired by treasured objects. It has been created by The Writers' Block.