**So what *did* you learn?**

*“In Switzerland there was once an old count. He had an only son who couldn’t seem to learn a thing. The Father said: “Listen, my son, I’ve tried and tried, but I can’t drum anything into your head. You will have to go away. I am sending you to a famous teacher; let him see what he can do with you.” The boy was sent to a strange city, and spent a whole year with the teacher. Then he returned home and his father asked him: “Well my son, what have you learned?” “Father, he replied, I have learned what dogs say when they bark.” “Heaven help us! cried the father. Is that all you’ve learned? I’ll have to send you to another teacher” After a year the boy returned home. “Well, my son, what have learned?” “Father, I’ve learned what the birds say.” The father flew into a rage. “You good for nothing! he cried, wasting all that precious time and learning nothing. I am going to send you to a third teacher and if you don’t learn something this time, I won’t be your father anymore. When the son returned home his father asked him: “My son, what have you learned?” He replied: “Dear father, this year I learned what the frogs say when they croak.” The father grew angrier than ever, jumped up and called all his servants, and said: “This Dolt is no longer my son. I disown him. Take him out into the forest and kill him.” They took him out onto the forest, but when it came time to kill him, they let him go.*

*The boy wandered from place to place. After a while he came to a castle and asked for a night’s lodging. “Very well” said the lord of the castle. “If you are willing to spend the night in the old dungeon, you may stay, but I warn you, you will be facing great danger, for the place is full of wild dogs that bark and howl night and day. At certain hours a human must be brought in to them and they devour him on the spot.” The boy however was fearless. “Just give me some food for your barking dogs, he said, and take me down to them. They won’t hurt me.” Since he himself insisted, they gave him food for the wild dogs and led him down into the dungeon. The next morning, to everyone’s amazement, he came up safe and sound and said to the lord of the castle: “The dogs have told me in their language why they are living down there and bringing evil upon the country. They are under a spell and forced to guard a great treasure that is in the dungeon. They will know no peace until someone digs it up, and I have learned by listening to them how it can be done.” All those who heard him were overjoyed, and the lord of the castle promised to adopt him as his son if he performed the task. Down he went again and brought up a chest full of gold, and from that time the howling of the wild dogs was never heard again.*

*Sometime later, the boy, now a young count, took it into his head to go to Rome. On the way he rode past a marsh where some frogs were croaking. He pricked up his ears, and when he heard what they were saying he grew thoughtful and sad. At length, he arrived in Rome. The pope had just died, and the cardinals couldn’t make up their minds whom to choose as his successor. In the end they agreed to wait until God sent a sign. Just as the young count entered the church, two snow white doves flew down and perched on his shoulders. In this the cardinals saw a sign from heaven and asked him on the spot if wanted to be pope. At first he was undecided, for he didn’t feel worthy, but at length he said, “Yes.” Then he had to say Mass. He didn’t know a single word of it, but the two doves who were still perched on his shoulders, whispered it all into his ears.*

*The Three languages*

The Brothers Grimm

ACTIVITY:

Sometimes it can be difficult to distil into a communicable form what we’ve learned and how it will be useful.

* Reflect back over the past segment and note what has stood out for you.
* Are any ideas of how it you might use some this, beginning to emerge yet?
* Have you already encountered situation of trying to explain to others what you learned?
* Discuss your thoughts with your study buddy.