

UNESCO Chair in Learning and Teaching Futures Literacy in the Anthropocene  
**Method mosaic**

<b>Title:</b>	Table Setting
<b>Target audience:</b>	Secondary Level I and II
<b>Time:</b>	2 x 1.5 hours + project work
<b>Objective:</b>	Envisioning sustainable futures (GreenComp 4.3)
<b>Topic:</b>	Family & friends in the future
<b>Materials:</b>	Drawing materials, tablet, props

**Brief Description:**

In her travel book *The Heroine Is Travelling*, film director and author Doris Dörrie shares a childhood memory:

“As a child, I loved to draw a laid table, with plates, cups, bowls and cutlery, but without the people who would be sitting at it in the next moment. The atmosphere is quiet and collected, with anticipation and a certain tension in the air. A laid table is like a promise, the announcement of a story. Writing a story is like setting a table.”<sup>1</sup>

The learners receive the text excerpt as an introduction. The teacher prepares visual stimuli, e.g. still lifes (e.g. Georg Flegel: *Large display dinner with parrot*; Paul Cézanne: *Still life/fruit and crockery*; Paula Modersohn-Becker: *Still life with milk*) or paintings showing a laid table (e.g. Leonardo da Vinci: *The Last Supper*; Jan Brueghel the Elder: *Allegory of the Senses*; Auguste Renoir: *Breakfast of the Oarsmen*). In the teaching discussion, the different impressions evoked by the scenes without and with people are first discussed and these impressions are then compared with the text excerpt. The learners are invited to close their eyes and remember a table setting at which they themselves sat down in earlier years (e.g. at family birthdays or celebrations, meals out with friends, holidays abroad, club parties).

The learners are given the task of designing a table setting in small groups at which they would like to sit with family and/or friends in the (near or distant) future. The requirement is to (re)use only existing materials and not to make anything new. - Alternatively, this task can also be given as an (individual) writing assignment.

During the plenary presentation, the materials used are presented and the stories that take place around this set table in the future are told.

**Citation Suggestion:**

Sippl, Carmen (2024): Table Setting. In: Method mosaic of the UNESCO Chair in Learning and Teaching Futures Literacy in the Anthropocene, <https://www.ph-noe.ac.at/unesco-chair>

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<sup>1</sup> Dörrie, Doris (2022): *Die Heldin reist*. Diogenes. S. 41.