All people tell stories. The ability of our species to communicate sequences of events in a way which stimulates the cognitive processes of the audience is what sets us apart from other animals. The ability has been now analysed as an adaptation, that is a behaviour that brings us specific benefits in the environment we exist in. What benefits are these? How did the ability to tell stories evolve in our species? And what role does it play with respect to verbal communication and its beginnings? These questions are tackled by researchers from evolutionary psychology, literary Darwinism, and evolution of language. This project proposes to separate the stories that we know today (such as anecdotes, bedtime stories, or literary fiction) from their predecessors, shared among our ancestors before the emergence of language. Its objective is to define "protostories" analogously to "protolanguage", pinpointing their positive and negative characteristics with respect to modern-day stories, based on the primary terms of narratology connected with time, setting, and characters. The project starts with a qualitative analysis of stories shared by hunter-gatherers, whose culture is one of the few remaining fossils of the lifestyle of our ancestors in the savannah. The analysis shall serve as a basis for creating a database of video recordings in which professional actors represent stories according to pre-defined criteria, without the use of words, via pantomime. The communicative potential of their representations is to be tested in a series of experimental studies designed in line with one of the paradigms of Experimental Semiotics. Thus, the project should offer answers to the following questions: Which aspects of time, setting, and characters could be realised in protostories? Is it possible to communicate and comprehend those without the use of language?