The Little Girl with Big Feet

A personal experience of autoethnography

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The Little Man with Big Feet

In: Folk Tales for Reading and Telling, Berg, 1966
Is this about autoethnography?

- challenges prevailing discourse
- gives voice to marginalized discourses
- autobiographical
- privileges individual
- embraces subjectivity
- evokes the ‘lived experience’
- – showing not telling
- elicits visceral response
- ‘judicious use of our vulnerable selves’
- risks exposure
- provokes social action
How is it not autoethnographic?

- ethnography (telling the story of a group of people or a culture)
- ‘places the self within a social context’
- demands a high level of researcher reflexivity
Why?

- Fabulous story (actually a story within a story) so I wanted to share it
- How we learn

“Thou shalt not is soon forgotten, but Once upon a time lasts forever” (Philip Pullman)
References
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Harper, D & Thompson, R (Eds) (2012) *Qualitative research methods in mental health and psychotherapy; a guide for students and practitioners*. Chichester: John Wiley & Sons
McLeod, J (2011) *Qualitative research in counselling and psychotherapy (2nd ed)*. London: Sage