

# The Boy at the back of the Class

## Lesson 2: Prejudice

1. What Mr Brown and Mrs Grimsby Said 2. The Refugee Kid 3. The Woman in the Silver Scarf

### Aim

To investigate the reasons people have prejudices, promote independent thinking and build tolerance and inclusion

#### Focus theme for this

lesson:

**Prejudice**

#### Themes Explored in

chapters 4 - 6:

**Intolerance**  
**Friendship**  
**Refugee Crisis**  
**Being different**

#### Issues to discuss:

**Refugee Crisis**  
**Being Grown Up**  
**Power**  
**Abuse**  
**Justice**  
**War**  
**Syria**

#### Skills developed:

**Tolerance**  
**Inclusion**  
**Empathy**  
**Kindness**

#### Expressive Arts Skills:

**Role Play**  
**Frozen Images**  
**Improvisation**  
**Creative writing in role**

**E's and O's:** Refer to Overview

Resources: Large sheet of paper and felt pens, Resource sheet 2a

Complete task **A** for the following chapter titles, using your knowledge, chapter headings and your summary to decide what is happening in each of the photos:

**What Mr Brown and Mrs Grimsby Said**  
**The Refugee Kid**  
**The Woman in the Silver Scarf**

**Task:** Whole class discuss the meaning of prejudice. They write their thoughts down on a piece of paper. They then write down example of prejudice that they have experienced, or know others to have experienced, or have heard about. What are people prejudiced about? Look at sheet 2b.

**Task:** Get into pairs. Each pair is given one of the quotes below from the book. In your pairs, discuss these. Imagine why Mrs Grimsby or Mr Greggs might be saying this. Think of as many imaginary reasons as you can and write these down on a large sheet of paper.

You know a lot about Ahmet and why he is over here. Write down what you know from having read the book. Look at the five pictures from chapter 10 to remind yourselves.

**Task:** Create a frozen image of the speaker of the quote speaking to the listener. and a listener to these quotes. Think about body language, facial expression, gesture. Think about the reasons you have discussed in the first task and imagine how they might apply to Mrs Grimsby or Mr Greggs thinking that way. Now using the quote as an opening line,

bring the scene to life for just a minute or two. After the quote has been said, the listener should try to explain what they know about refugees through their experience of knowing Ahmet. Mrs Grimsby or Mr Greggs may want to join in the conversation with questions of further comments. These should be taken on board and dealt with in the conversation.

'A bother – the whole lot of 'em. Just you wait and see – it's our kids who will suffer, just because these ones are coming over to do whatever they like.' Mrs Grimsby

'Wouldn't trust one as far as I could throw 'em.' Mrs Grimsby

'But my dad said Refugee Kids are dangerous, and that they lie and steal things. He told me to stay away from the new boy and not talk to him because he was probably a criminal.' Josie

'Those pesky refugees are only here because they want a piece of our benefits pie.' Mr Greggs

'Immigrant pests that want the easy life without having to work a day for it.' - Mr Greggs

**Task:** Take one of these lines (Resource sheet 2a) and imagine you are Ahmet and you heard someone say these things, how would you feel? Has anyone ever said something to you that was unkind, and they said it because they were unkind and they did not know the facts? Discuss in pairs with your partner.

From what you know about Ahmet, do you think these comments apply to him and his family? Why do you think these people are saying these things?

What does the word prejudice mean? (Resource sheet 2c) Share your ideas with the class and these can be written down for everyone to see.

Look at the picture of Ahmet and his family. Discuss what you see in the picture. Now, draw a picture of you and your family, in the same way that Ahmet has. Draw your home, the background, and each member of your family. Pets as well!

**Task: Changing minds:** Josie's dad changed his mind. That's great. Others believed the lies...like in chapter. Why do you think Josie's dad changed his mind? In pairs, imagine one of you is Josie and one is Josie's dad. Josie starts the conversation by telling her dad there is a new boy in school. Use the prompt cards and what you know to help you have the discussion together.

Each is a person. With a family. Listen to the different statements about.

Later on we see the first picture that Ahmet drew in preparation for his talk to the class. In groups of three, describe what you see in the picture. Could this be a picture of any of you and your family?

**Task:** The whole class gets together to discuss and agree on their Take-Aways from this lesson, writing them on the flip chart.

## Resource Sheet 2a

1. 'A bother – the whole lot of 'em. Just you wait and see – it's our kids who will suffer, just because these ones are coming over to do whatever they like.' Mrs Grimsby
2. 'Wouldn't trust one as far as I could throw 'em.'  
Mrs Grimsby
3. 'But my dad said Refugee Kids are dangerous, and that they lie and steal things. He told me to stay away from the new boy and not talk to him because he was probably a criminal.' Josie
4. 'Those pesky refugees are only here because they want a piece of our benefits pie.' Mr Greggs
5. 'Immigrant pests that want the easy life without having to work a day for it.' - Mr Greggs

## Resource Sheet 2b

What exactly is prejudice? Discuss the following definitions:

- **an unfavourable opinion or feeling formed beforehand or *without knowledge, thought, or reason.***
- **any *preconceived* opinion or feeling, either favourable or unfavourable.**
- ***unreasonable feelings, opinions, or attitudes, especially of a hostile nature, regarding an ethnic, racial, social, or religious group.***

Why are people prejudiced? Discuss the following ideas:

***A person's upbringing may cause them to become prejudiced.***

***If parents had prejudices of their own, there is a chance that these opinions will be passed on to the next generation.***

***Fear of difference, of the unknown***

***One bad experience with a person from a particular group can cause a person to think of all people from that group in the same way.***

***Prejudice makes the victim feel less than fully human. When people are undervalued by others, their self-esteem suffers and they stop trying to improve themselves. Prejudice can often lead to bullying and other forms of discrimination .***

For example, prejudice and discrimination based on **race** is called racism. Often, gender prejudice or discrimination is referred to as sexism. Discrimination is often the outcome of prejudice—a pre-formed negative judgment or attitude. Prejudice can lead people to view certain individuals or groups as inferior.

## Resource Sheet 2c

<b>BAD</b>	<b>Good</b>	
angry	amused	
afraid	brave	
awkward	calm	
annoyed	cheerful	
anxious	cooperative	
bad	determined	
confused	enthusiastic	
depressed	excited	
embarrassed	fair	
envious	fantastic	
excluded	fine	
frightened	friendly	
helpless	funny	
hurt	good	
jealous	happy	
lonely	healthy	
naughty	helpful	
nervous	included	
panicky	jolly	
scared	kind	
selfish	proud	
thoughtless	relieved	
upset	smiling	
worried	successful	
	thoughtful	
	victorious	
	wonderful	

### 4. What Mr Brown and Mrs Grimsby Said

'There's nothing more boring than talking about something everyone else can see for themselves, but I Guess that's what you are meant to do when you become a grown up.'

'It'll cause trouble, you mark my words. They're only coming over to take our jobs.'

'If he's from that awful war on the news, I feel sorry for the kid. Can't blame them from wanting to get out of that death trap.'

'A bother – the whole lot of 'em. Just you wait and see – it's our kids who will suffer, just because these ones are coming over to do whatever they like. Wouldn't trust one as far as I could throw 'em. Just you wait and see – it's our kids who will suffer, just because these ones are coming over to do whatever they like.'

'You can only really ever know that a person's really your friend when they like you enough to smile back at you.'

'...they were trying to find somewhere new to live because their home wasn't nice to live in any more...'

## **5. The Refugee Kid**

'Children like the new boy in your class are called refugee kids, because they've had to leave their homes and travel very far to try and find a new house to live in.'

'Refugee children have been forced to run away – because bad people have made it impossible for them to stay. Those bad people drop bombs on their houses and destroy all the beautiful parts of their cities. And the places where the refugees used to live have become so horrible and so scary that they can't live in them any more. So they walk for miles and miles and get into boats to travel to countries they've never been to before, and go to strange places they don't know, just so that they can find somewhere that's safe enough to live in again.'

'I wondered what the refugee people had done to make the bad people so angry.'

'Nothing at all. The bad people are just much stronger than they are, and like to feel big and powerful by bullying them. You see some people think by taking things away from other people and hurting them, it gives them more power. And the more power they have, the more they want and the greedier they get. So they go on hurting more and more people until everyone wants to run away.'

'They force people to leave everything they ever had behind. Even the people they love most in the world.'

'The world has never been kind to refugees.'

'The best books leave you with more questions than answers.'

## **6. The Woman In the Silver Scarf**

'But my dad said Refugee Kids are dangerous, and that they lie and steal things. He told me to stay away from the new boy and not talk to him because he was probably a criminal.'

'But my mum and dad said we should be extra nice to him.'

'We should never forget how many people have died in wars to save us'

'In Syria, no-one needs to speak English.'

'Brendan the Bully hates everyone who's different from him.'