

The Boy at the back of the Class

Lesson 6: Kindness

16. The Royal Letter 17. The Emergency Plan 18. Stan the Taxi Man

Aim

To identify evidence of kindness in the novel, explore the value of showing kindness and identify different ways of being kind

<u>Focus theme for this lesson:</u> Kindness	<u>Issues to discuss:</u> Values Rewards Making Plans Little white lies Different types of kindness Image	<u>Skills developed:</u> Empathy Kindness Resolution Problem Solving <u>Expressive Arts Skills:</u> Role Play Improvisation Mime Hot Seating
<u>Themes Explored in chapters 16 - 18</u> Fairness Friendship Planning		

E's and O's: Refer to Overview

Resources: Resource Sheet 6a, Resource Sheet 6b. Pens and paper.

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:

The Royal Letter
The Emergency Plan
Stan the Taxi Man

Kindness was one of the things that you identified as a quality a friend should have. And one would hope that we are all kind to our friends. There are lots of acts of kindness taking place in the novel.

Task 1: Pictures of kindness: There are lots of acts of kindness taking place in the novel. In groups of three, can you think of these? Make a list of as many as you can remember. In your groups choose three of these and show them happening in a frozen picture. As you present this, focus on the facial expression and body language of the characters.

e.g: Giving the sherbet lemon to Ahmet.

Kindness is very important in friendship. And it is easy to be kind to those who are kind to us. But what do you think about being kind to someone you don't know?

Task 2: Kindness of strangers: Think of Stan the Taxi Driver. He was a complete stranger to the friends. What do you think of him? How did he show kindness? In the same threes, discuss any acts of kindness that you know about or have done yourself or have had done to you by someone you didn't know. Share with the class. How did it make you feel – *a) knowing it, b) doing it, c) receiving it?*

Task: Read through the two scenarios on Resource Sheet 6a

1. An elderly neighbour and a young mum.
2. A young boy and a man.

Task: You could prepare a few questions and hot seat the two main characters from each of the scenes. The characters should be encouraged to imagine the answers to each question if they do not know them. You could even give the questions to them for a wee look in advance.

Task : Kindness dilemmas

Look at the three kindness dilemma cards, Resource Sheet 6b, and discuss with a partner. There is no planned outcome. Each person decide on a role

In groups of two, choose a scene and using the opening lines on the cards, improvise what happens in the scene. The outcome is open-ended which means there is no right or wrong solution. You need to take a hint from your first line as to what you think you should do and make your reasons clear as

Task : Have a think about the phrases below and discuss in threes. Share with the class.

1. Seeing other people's needs
(Are we too busy, we don't see?)
2. Putting the needs of others before your own obstacle
(Are we too interested in our own needs which are our priority?)
3. Do we think it's a bit 'wet' or 'showy' to be kind to others?

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

1.

An elderly woman makes a vegetable lasagna for a family who live in her street and leaves it on the doorstep with a note. She does not know them at all well, as they have just moved in, but there are 2 children in the family and they have just had a new baby.

Why does the woman do this?

2.

A young boy and a man. A young boy has just got on the bus and realises he does not have enough change for the ticket. He is searching for coins in his pocket and becoming upset. People behind waiting to get on are getting a bit cranky. A man gets up from his seat on the bus and goes up and hands some coins to the boy – enough to buy the ticket and some more. He winks and smiles, puts his finger to his lips to indicate 'say nothing' and sits down again. The boy smiles and mouths 'thank-you' and then buys his ticket.

Why did the man do this?

3.

A taxi-man in London picks up two children in his taxi. They have a chat and tell him they need to get to Buckingham Palace. They make up a story about being on a school trip. Stan refuses to take any money for the journey and wishes them well.

Why does the taxi-man do this?

Kindness with self-sacrifice

You are going to the cinema with your mum. In front of you in the queue is a family also waiting to get tickets. They are wide eyed and excited. It is clear that they don't have a lot of money and this is a really special event for them. The Dad is counting out his money as he scans the price board. It suddenly dawns on him that he does not have enough money. There is a look of panic on his face. It's his turn to buy the tickets and he is told the cost. He is silent, counting his money again. Your dad watches and then you and your dad look at each other.

Scene begins:

You: I think we should give them our money so they can all get in.

Dad/Mum: What? No.....

Kindness without judgement

There is a homeless girl outside a supermarket in a quiet street in the centre of town. She looks very tired and pale. She has a sign in front of her. It says ' I am hungry and thirsty and am living on the streets because I can't get a job and have no home at the moment. A few pence would help. Please.'

You are with a friend and are thinking of your lunch. But you don't want to walk past the girl on the street.

Scene begins:

You: I'm going to buy lunch for that girl.

Your friend: But why? I bet she isn't even homeless.....

Giving time as an act of kindness

You and a friend are in a busy super-store. You leave to go to get the bus. You are both excited about a football match that's showing on telly soon and are now rushing to catch the bus that will get you home in time to see it from the start. You are taking a short cut through the car-park. There is an older woman really struggling on the stairs. She is heading for the lift to take her to her car. But as she gets closer she sees it says 'Out of order'. She has a baby in a pram, two young children and loads of parcels and bags and looks exhausted. She drops the bags and all her shopping falls out and says 'oh no! And where did I leave my car?'

Scene begins:

You: Hold up, this lady needs help. Let's give her a hand.

Friend: We'll miss the bus if we do! Someone else will help her. I need to get back to see the match!

14. 'Books are like people. Look past their covers, and they'll take you on a great adventure'

- from the school library displayed by Mrs Finnicky