

The Boy at the back of the Class

Lesson 7: Diversity

19. The Queen's Palace 20. The Coldstream Guards 21 The Neighbours and the News

Aim:

To explore diversity and promote celebration and respect of difference

Focus theme for this

lesson:

Diversity

Themes Explored in

chapters 21 – 24:

**Being Different
Traditions**

Issues to discuss:

**Meaning of diversity
Types of Diversity
Benefits of diversity
The same but differently
Different but the same**

Skills developed:

**Observation
Acceptance
Inclusion**

Expressive Arts Skills:

**Creative Writing
Role Play**

E's and O's: Refer to Overview

Resources: Sheets 7a and 7b

Diversity

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 Queen's Palace
The Cold Stream Guards
The Neighbours and the News**

'There are lots of silly people in the world darling, people who are so afraid of anyone who doesn't look like them or dress like them or eat the same food as them that they call other people – even children like you – all sorts of silly names.' Mum, Chapter 21

Task: Get into pairs with someone in the class you have not worked with before. Identify 6 things about that person that are different from you in the way you look and dress, and 6 things that are the same.

Find another partner. Repeat this exercise but this time find out 6 differences that are not about the way you look. These could be hobbies, family, likes and dislikes, books you like to read, games to play – what you do on a Saturday – anything at all. And 6 things that are the same.

Now repeat for you and Ahmet. You may want to look at the picture you drew of him and the

words you linked in during Lesson 1. Then share your ideas with the rest of the class. Jot these down.

Don't be frightened, be curious. Once people learn, like Josie's dad, they realise there is nothing to be afraid of.

Task: On page 231 of the novel, in chapter 21, the narrator lists lots of things that are different about the people in their life. Read these out from worksheet.

To show the fear that the narrator's mum talks about, people show disapproval, call names, keep away, make things up about people based on their appearance,

Make a list of the things that people don't like about someone else. Fear of the different: Hair, Clothes, Skin Colour, Accent, Body Shape ----- complete the list.

Task: Write a poem with a friend, as a group or on your own. The theme is '**difference**' and the poem should be about celebrating difference. The title of your poem can be anything you want but the first and last line is '*We are all flesh and blood*' .

Share the poems with the rest of the class. You could create a performance piece from this.

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 7a

<p>The Deep Thought my brain had found was wondering how anyone could be scared of me just because I didn't look like them.</p>	<p>Everyone in school looks different and likes different things</p>
<p>and has parents who come from all kinds of different places.</p>	<p>Tom's mum and dad come from different places in America – one called Florida and the other called California</p>
<p>Michael's mum comes from a place called Nigeria, and his dad comes from France, which is why he always goes on lots of holidays and has even seen a giraffe and an elephant in the forest.</p>	<p>Josie's mum comes from Barking and her dad comes from Bradford, which is why they speak differently, and her dad always sounds like he's asking a question, even when he isn't</p>
<p>And mum and Uncle Lenny were both born in a faraway place I've never been to called Indonesia and my dad was born in Austria.</p>	<p>Mrs Abbey once said that I was lucky to have parents from different places, because it meant I never needed to go on holiday to get a suntan. I like looking like I have a suntan,</p>
<p>I like everyone being different.'</p>	

20. The Cold Stream Guards

'Sometimes people won't tell you what they are really thinking, so you have to watch their face extra hard and see if they give any clues away'

21. The Neighbours and The News

Deep Thought

'The Deep Thought my brain had found was wondering how anyone could be scared of me just because I didn't look like them. Everyone in school looks different and likes different things – and has parents who come from all kinds of different places. Tom's mum and dad come from different places in America – one called Florida and the other called California. Michael's mum comes from a place called Nigeria, and his dad comes from France, which is why he always goes on lots of holidays and has even seen a giraffe and an elephant in the forest. Josie's mum comes from Barking and her dad comes from Bradford, which is why they speak differently, and her dad always sounds like he's asking a question, even when he isn't. And mum and Uncle Lenny were both born in a faraway place I've never been to called Indonesia and my dad was born in Austria. Mrs Abbey once said that I was lucky to have parents from different places, because it meant I never needed to go on holiday to get a suntan. I like looking like I have a suntan, and I like everyone being different.'

It would be too boring if everyone was exactly the same as each other.

For every silly person who's afraid of you, there are at least twenty people who aren't silly at all.

- *culture, race, ethnicity.*
- *disability.*
- *religious or spiritual beliefs.*
- *gender, including transgender.*
- *generational.*
- *sexual orientation/sexual identity*

What are the benefits of diversity?