

The Day War Came

Lesson 6 : *Chairs*

Aim:

To explore the need to be kind, empathetic and inclusive

Focus theme for this lesson

A chair for everyone – inclusion and belonging

Themes Explored

1. War
2. Feelings: Despair Being alone Rejection
3. Prejudice
4. Belonging
5. Inclusion
6. Refugee Crisis
7. Feeling Safe
8. Kindness
9. Gratitude

Duration:

30 minutes plus

Skills developed:

*Empathy
Sharing
Thinking in role
Working together
Changing our behaviour
Acceptance
Kindness
Responding to needs Sharing
Exploring senses*

Expressive Arts Skills:

*Suspension of disbelief
Imaginative Response
Thinking in role
Adopting and speaking in role*

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

Resources:

1. Chairs

2. Bits and bobs to decorate each chair

Chairs

Teacher sets up the chairs in the classroom in two rows, in a corridor, like in the picture at the end of the book.

Discuss: Everyone has a chair to sit in when they arrive at school.
How important is your chair to you? Why? Discuss in groups.

Task: You are going to spend some time making your chair different from anyone else in the class. Usually classroom chairs are all the same but sometimes they have your name on them. How can you make your chair yours? The children collect their chairs and in pairs, the children discuss how they can make their chair special to them, making suggestions to each other. They then collect some bits and bobs to do this with and help each other. The chairs must still be able to be used. Just some thoughtful decoration is needed. Return their chairs to where they got them and sit on them.

Discuss: As a class, discuss:

- What do you think it would be like if you arrived at school one day and there was no chair for you and your teacher told you that you couldn't come in?
- Why do you think the teacher in the story did not let the child in?
- How would you feel if that happened to you?

Task: The children look at the picture of the girl under the blanket. The teacher opens the jar of words from the previous lessons and goes through them with the class. The class discuss how the girl must be feeling now. Have you ever felt sad and wanted to hide somewhere safe? Discuss.

The teacher splits the class in two. One half are going to be the children who are 'wrapped in the dirty blanket in a corner of the hut'. They should try to imagine how they might be feeling. The other half are going to be the children in the classroom. If you were going to meet this child, what advice would you give yourself about how to treat them?

Discuss and put these in a word jar – Kindness jar.

The children find a space to lie down in and cuddle an imaginary blanket. You may wish to use the soundscape at the start of this to set the scene.

The remaining children wait for a few moments, and in their own time, go to the child on the floor, bend down and gently start a conversation with them, in role as a pupil from the class having witnessed the scene when the teacher told the child they could not come in. After a very brief conversation, the pupil goes and gets their chair and gives it to the child on the floor and they both return carrying the chair together and put it where it was. The child sits on the chair and the other child sit on the floor. They sit in silence. Then they are asked to all sit on their own chairs.

This can be repeated if required with the children playing the opposite role.

Discuss: As a class, discuss how do you feel? As the pupil, as the child?

What do we need to do to help other people? We all have feelings, we all share the same interests, we are all the same. Think back to breakfast and school at the start and the end. It could be you in each of these pictures.

'The Day War Came'

Lesson 3: Activity Sheet 1

With your partner, think of words to describe the sounds created below. Write these in the space provided. What do you think might cause these noises? Write these down as well.

Spattering of hail:

Voice of thunder:

Smoke:

Fire:

*Noise that I didn't understand:
Think of other noises that you might hear.*