

Your Task

Write a short story explaining the themes of acceptance, inclusion, diversity and respect to a younger audience.

Audience: A younger child (KS1).

Purpose: To explain the themes of inclusion and diversity.

Example plot:

- 1) A character wants to go and play.
- 2) They ask to join in a game with another group of characters, but they say that he can't due to a difference.
- 3) The same thing happens with another group of characters.
- 4) The same thing happens with another group of characters.
- 5) The character is feeling sad and alone.
- 6) Another character joins him and listens to the situation.
- 7) Together, the two characters create a game that everyone can play.
- 8) All of the other characters join in and decide it is the best game ever.
- 9) A lesson has been learnt by all.

Example characters:

- Animals e.g. farm/zoo/insects/pets
- Vegetables
- Fruits
- Toys
- Vehicles

Your Task

The Wise Elephant

1) A character wants to go and play.

It was a beautiful day in the jungle. The birds were singing. The insects were buzzing and chirping. The sun was shining. Tortoise was looking for something to do.

2) They ask to join in a game with another group of characters, but they say that he can't due to a difference.

He spotted a group of brightly coloured birds flying between two trees. They looked beautiful and happy and like they were having so much fun.

"Can I play?" asked Tortoise happily.

"Sorry," said one of the birds, "but you haven't got wings. You need to be able to fly to play this game."

"Oh - okay," said Tortoise, feeling sad. Off he went.

3) The same thing happens with another group of characters.

Soon, Tortoise came to a watering hole where some happy hippos were playing and splashing about. Their faces were filled with glee.

It looked such fun.

"Can I play?" asked Tortoise hopefully.

"Sorry," said one of the hippos, "but you can't swim. You need to be able to stay under the water to play this game."

"Oh - okay," said Tortoise, feeling sad. Very sad indeed. Off he went.

4) The same thing happens with another group of characters.

After a while, Tortoise heard the sound of some cheeky monkeys playing in the trees nearby. They were swinging from tree to tree with ease and having the best time.

“Can I play?” asked Tortoise, holding his breath.

“Sorry,” said one of the monkeys, “but you haven’t got a long tail. You need to be able to swing from tree to tree to play this game.”

“Oh - okay,” said Tortoise, feeling sad. Sadder than he had ever felt before. Off he went.

5) The character is feeling sad and alone.

Tortoise found some shade beneath a tree and decided to rest for a while. He felt very sad. Very sad and very alone. The other animals had not spoken to him unkindly, but no one had let him play. He didn’t have wings or a long, swishy tail. He couldn’t stay under water for a long time. He sighed sadly.

6) Another character joins him and listens to the situation.

Just then, wise old Elephant appeared.

“Why do you look so sad, Tortoise?” he asked with a gentle voice.

“I can’t fly. I don’t have a long tail to jump from tree to tree. And I can’t swim and stay under water,” Tortoise replied, his eyes filling with tears.

“So?” asked Elephant.

“I can’t join in any of the games,” Tortoise explained sadly.

“Then perhaps they just aren’t the right games,” Elephant said with a twinkle in his eye.

“Follow me.”

7) Together, the two characters create a game that everyone can play.

Elephant found a clearing in the jungle. He took a large, juicy-looking mango down from a tree. He threw it to Tortoise and it bounced off his hard, shiny shell. Tortoise looked confused. Elephant picked the mango up with his trunk and threw it again. The group of monkeys playing nearby grew curious and came over. “What are you doing?” they asked. “We are playing mango ball,” Elephant replied. “The mango cannot touch the ground.”

“Can we play?” the monkeys asked.

“Of course,” Elephant replied. “EVERYONE can play.” Soon, they were all having great fun. The monkeys were jumping around and using their long tails to catch and throw the mango. Tortoise was smiling as he used his super shell to bounce the mango, lifting his feet or his bottom to send it ricocheting in different directions.

8) All of the other characters join in and decide it is the best game ever.

The sound of the laughter drew the attention of the other animals in the jungle. The hippos waded over from the watering hole. The birds flew down from the trees. One by one, animals of all shapes, sizes and colours came to play. Some had wings. Some had stripes. Some had tusks. Some were very small. Some were very big. One by one, they all asked the same thing: “Can we play?” And Elephant always replied with: “Of course. EVERYONE can play.”

9) A lesson has been learnt by all.

Eventually, Tortoise needed a rest. He went to sit by Elephant, who was happily watching the fun beneath the shade of the tree.

“Thank you,” said Tortoise warmly.

“Are you still sad that you don’t have wings? That you can’t swing from tree to tree?” Elephant asked.

Tortoise thought about this. He turned to watch the game. He saw how a group of ants worked together to carry the mango across the floor. He watched Snake take the mango and flick it with her tail. He watched Warthog pierce it gently with his tusk and then run with it before a bird swooped and picked it up with her talons.

“No,” said Tortoise proudly. “I am happy just the way I am.”

Elephant smiled.

All of the animals had learnt an important lesson that day: the best games were the ones that they could all play together!

Plan

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