

TASKSHEET for Session 2

Developing intercultural competence with young learners of English

TASK 5:

View this video <http://vimeo.com/23111919> THE CRAYON BOX THAT TALKED and decide a) with what age and language level learners can you use it for, b) what young learners can learn through this story, c) what activities you would carry out in the classroom based on the short story

TASK 6: Look at the following description of an activity for young children based on Aesop's myth "The Lion and the Mouse" (written by Thaleia Chatzigiannoglou). What other activities can you carry out based on the myth? What do students learn by carrying out the suggested activities?

1st step

The teacher narrates Aesop's myth "The Lion and the Mouse" modulating his/her voice:

It's hot and sunny in the jungle. The big and strong lion, the King of the jungle, stands in the middle and says:

"Listen you all, I am very tired and I am going to sleep. So be quiet everybody! Nobody speak!"

Then he lies under a tree and falls asleep. Everyone is quiet.

There comes Mrs Mouse, happy and excited and starts to sing.

"It's so hot. I go for a swim!"

"Be quiet Mrs. Mouse. King Lion is sleeping. Don't wake him up."

"Don't worry! I don't make a noise! I swim far away."

She falls into the river and starts swimming and playing in the water. But she forgets the lion is there and wakes him up.

"What's that noise?" shouts the lion.

"I am very sorry. It is so warm and I love swimming. Please don't eat me.

Let me go! I can help you one day!"

"YOU can help ME one day! That's funny. Ha-ha! You are too small to help me, said the King of the jungle."

Some days later, everyone hears a noise in the jungle.

“What’s wrong?” they shout. Mrs Mouse runs to the lion and what does she see?

He is inside a net and can’t move! He is sad, he is not free.

“Don’t cry, King lion, my friend” says Mrs Mouse. “I can help you. I can bite this net, make a hole and let you free.”

She bites the ropes and the lion falls on the ground.

“Thank you my little mouse” the lion says, happy and free. We can always be friends!”

“You are welcome, lion my friend, you see I may be small, but I can always help you!”

2nd step: The teacher makes questions (factual and evaluative) and asks from the children to answer them, so that they narrate the myth once more through their answers. In that way, they understand the myth better and practice what they have already learnt: Who is sleeping? Why? Why does Mrs Mouse start to swim? What do the other animals of the jungle do? Can you name some? What does the lion say when it wakes up? Does the lion eat the mouse? Why not? What happens to the lion a few days later? Who says “I can help you. I can bite this net”? Who says “We can always be friends!” Why?

3rd step: The teacher asks children to explain what the expression “to be friends” means for them. He/she tells them the Nigerian proverb “Hold a true friend with both your hands” and asks them to explain what it means. He/she also asks them to say if they know another proverb from another country about friendship.

4th step: Then he/she suggests to anyone who wants to talk about his friend(s) (his/her name/country/age/eye and hair color/preferences etc) and explain the reason why he/she considers him/her a friend.

5th step: The teacher asks children which their favorite part of the myth is and asks them to justify their choice.