

Experiencing the World in Silence

A story about EMPATHY



Positive Ending

KEY CONCEPT/ DISADVANTAGE

Empathy

OBJECTIVES

- To develop empathy and awareness, by helping pupils understand the challenges faced by deaf individuals, particularly in environments that may not accommodate their needs and encourage them to consider how they can be more supportive.
- To promote kindness and inclusion, by showing the importance of helping and looking out for others, especially those with different abilities, by fostering a caring and inclusive community where everyone feels safe and valued.
- To encourage problem-solving for accessibility, by inspiring pupils to think creatively about how to make spaces, activities, and communication more inclusive for deaf individuals, such as using visual signals, learning basic sign language, or working together to create a safer environment.

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION FOR POSITIVE ENDING

1. Why do you think Cristian is playing alone at the playground?
2. How do you think Cristian feels when he gets hurt and people laugh at him or accuse him of ignoring the warnings?
3. How do you feel now when you have found out Cristian is deaf?
4. What would you have done if you had been there?
5. How does learning sign language help the main character become friends with Cristian?
6. Why is it important to be kind, even when others are not?

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SUGGESTIONS FOR ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

1. Learn Basic Sign Language – Teach pupils simple signs like “hello,” “thank you,” “friend,” and “are you okay?” to promote communication and inclusivity.
https://asl-kids.com/sign-language_dictionary/?utm_source=chatgpt.com
https://lifeprint.com/asl101/pages-layout/concepts.htm?utm_source=chatgpt.com
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fnFWAzd3Kfw>
2. Empathy Role-Play – Have pupils take turns trying to communicate without using their voice while others try to understand, helping them experience what it’s like to be deaf. You may prepare cards with sentences like: “I want to sleep”, “I want to drink”, “I am hungry”, “Stop! I don’t want to” etc and the pupils can only use signs consider relevant to convey that particular meaning, not their voice.
3. Write a Letter to Cristian – Ask pupils to write a letter or draw something kind for Cristian, showing how they would welcome him as a friend.
 1. Playground Adventure Challenges
 1. Slide Challenge
 - ◆ Act out going down an invisible slide and use sound effects!
 2. Swing High, Swing Low
 - ◆ Imagine you’re swinging in space—describe what you see!
 3. Monkey Bars
 - ◆ Pretend you are crossing the monkey bars—for each movement say a positive adjective.
 4. See-Saw Talk
 - ◆ Work with a friend: Ask a question for them when you go up and wait for their answer and listen to their question and answer it when you go down.
 5. Secret Tunnel Adventure
 - ◆ Imagine a tunnel under the playground—what’s inside? Describe it!

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6. Race to the Finish Line!

◆ Pretend to run a race around the playground. Prepare a short thank-you speech after winning the playground race.

7. Climbing Frame Quest

◆ Imagine you are climbing a mountain— paint or draw what you can see at the top

8. Hopscotch Word Game

◆ Hop on one foot and spell a word with each jump!

9. Roundabout Story Spin

◆ Imagine you're on a magical roundabout—where does it take you?

10. Playground Hide-and-Seek

◆ Imagine you're hiding from a monster—how does the monster look like? Draw it!

11. Jump Rope Challenge

◆ The pupils jump five times and name an animal with each jump! Your colleagues must imitate the animals (sounds or movements)

5. Story Rewrite – Let pupils change parts of the story or write a new scene where Cristian is included from the beginning.

6. "Silent Playtime" Challenge – Let pupils play a game without speaking, encouraging them to use gestures and eye contact to understand each other.

Additional Resources

📖 Books:

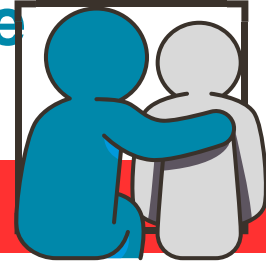
- "Can You Hear a Rainbow?" The Story of a Deaf Boy Named Chris by Jamee Riggio Heelan
- "El Deafo" by Cece Bell (Graphic novel about a deaf girl's experiences)
- "Proud to be deaf" by Ava Lilli and Nick Beese

📺 Videos:

- "Signing Time" – Fun videos that teach basic sign language for kids.

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Negative Ending

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OBJECTIVES

1. To **understand the consequences of exclusion and unkindness**, by helping pupils recognise how negative actions, like ignoring someone in need or mocking them, can hurt others, both physically and emotionally.
2. To **encourage self-reflection and responsibility**, by teaching pupils to reflect on their choices, admit it when they make mistakes, and understand how they can act with more kindness and empathy in the future.
3. To **promote the importance of standing up for others**, by showing pupils that being kind and doing the right thing, even when others are unkind, makes a difference in creating a more inclusive and supportive environment.

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION FOR ENDING 1

1. How do you think Cristian feels when he falls and no one helps him?
 2. Why do you think the main character chooses to ignore Cristian instead of helping him?
 3. How do you feel about the friends laughing and calling Cristian a loser? Why is this behaviour hurtful?
 4. What could have been a better way to respond to Cristian's accident?
 5. Have you ever seen someone being treated unfairly or excluded? What did you do? What could you do next time?
- If you could change the ending of this story, what would you do differently?

SUGGESTIONS FOR ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Activities

1. Discussion on Right vs. Wrong Choices

- Present different scenarios where someone is in need. Have pupils decide what they would do and why.

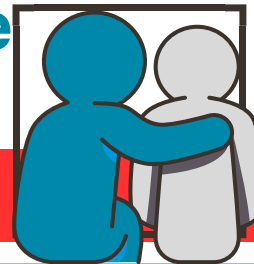
Instructions for Teachers:

- Print and cut out the scenarios for pupils to pick randomly or use pickerwheel digital tool.
- Have pupils role-play or discuss upon their choices.
- Reinforce the importance of kindness and helping others

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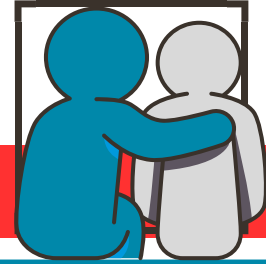
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SUGGESTIONS FOR ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Scenario Cards for Discussion

1. A friend falls in the playground and scrapes their knee.
 - ✓ Help them up and ask if they are okay.
 - ✓ Offer to take them to a teacher or the nurse.
 - ✓ Comfort them by saying kind words.
2. Someone in your class forgets their lunch at home.
 - ✓ Offer to share some of your lunch if possible.
 - ✓ Tell a teacher so they can help.
 - ✓ Be kind and sit with them so they don't feel left out.
3. Your little sibling is struggling to tie their shoelaces.
 - ✓ Teach them step by step how to tie them.
 - ✓ Offer to tie them for now and encourage them to keep practicing.
 - ✓ Be patient and encouraging.
4. A new student at school looks lost and confused.
 - ✓ Smile and introduce yourself.
 - ✓ Offer to show them around and help them find their way.
 - ✓ Invite them to play or sit with you at lunch.
5. An elderly person is struggling to carry their groceries.
 - ✓ Offer to carry a bag for them.
 - ✓ Ask if they need help getting to their car or home.
 - ✓ Always be polite and respectful when helping.
6. Your classmate drops all their books in the hallway.
 - ✓ Quickly help pick up their books.
 - ✓ Ask if they need help carrying them.
 - ✓ Be kind and don't laugh at their accident.
7. A child on the bus is crying because they can't find their parent.
 - ✓ Stay with them and try to comfort them.
 - ✓ Tell an adult or bus driver immediately.
 - ✓ Reassure them that someone will help.
8. Your friend is feeling sad because they lost their favorite toy.
 - ✓ Say something kind to make them feel better.
 - ✓ Help them look for it if possible.
 - ✓ Offer to play with them to distract them from being sad.

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9. You see someone being left out of a game during break time.

- ✓ Invite them to join your game.
- ✓ If the game is full, talk to them and play together later.
- ✓ Encourage others to include everyone.

10. A classmate is nervous before a big test and says they don't think they can do it.

- ✓ Encourage them by saying, "You can do it! Just try your best."
- ✓ Offer to study together before the test.
- ✓ Remind them that it's okay to make mistakes and to stay calm.

1. Empathy Walk

- Have pupils imagine themselves in Cristian's place. Ask them to write or draw their feelings about being left out or mistreated.

2. Kindness Chain

- Each pupil writes one act of kindness they can do for others on a paper strip. Link them together to create a kindness chain in the classroom.

3. Guest Speaker or Video on Deaf Awareness

- Invite a deaf community member or sign language interpreter to speak about their experiences.

4. Show a short film or documentary about deaf culture and inclusion.