

BIG CAT GONE

A Sensory Drama by Gill Brigg

Pupil and adult supporter work in pairs.

There is a wheeled chair for the teacher.

The room is made dark slowly.

Screens are turned off and a note is placed on the door: 'Please Do Not Disturb'.

Teacher says: ***We will all be working in a story together.***

Check-in with everyone that they are ready to start.

The teacher begins:

This story is about a big cat called a cheetah

A cheetah is a big cat that lives in a different part of the world

Traditional Iranian music plays as the pupils are still.

The cheetah has beautiful soft fur. When you stroke it, hear it purr.

Work trays or knees are draped with cheetah fur fabric.

A vibrating ball is placed beneath the fur and the sound and feel will resemble purring.

After some time, the fabric and vibrating balls are put out of sight.

The cheetah lives in a place that is rocky, sandy and rough.

Each pupil is given a tray containing sand, sandpaper and rocks.

They are invited to explore them as the music continues.

After some time, the trays are put out of sight.

Each day we sit and wait to hear the cheetah drinking.

The cheetah drinks water to stay alive.

A splashing sound is heard. The teacher, and then pupils, slap the top of water in a bowl to mimic drinking sounds.

After some time, the water is put out of sight.

But the rains are late this year. There is no water for the cheetah to drink.

There is much listening and waiting with the teacher looking for the cheetah and modelling 'worry'.

The room is made as dark as possible and the pupils explore the space with torches, looking for the cheetah.

After some time, the torches are put out of sight.

While we wait, we cook food for our family.

A selection of herbs and spices are offered for the pupils to rub and crush.

They are also offered containers of flour into which they can press sultanas and spices. After some time, the edibles are placed out of sight.

Suddenly we hear a noise.

The teacher uses fingers to make the sound of rain on a table-top.

Rain?

Yes. Rain.

It rains and it rains and it rains.

Water sprays over the heads of the pupils.

I wonder if the cheetah will come back. What do you think?

At this point the pupils can choose the outcome.

If a pupil communicates 'yes', the fur fabric and vibrating balls return. If they communicate 'no' then the edibles return and the wait continues. The rain returns and the question is repeated:

I wonder if the cheetah will come back. What do you think?

After some time:

That's the end of the story.

The session ends with lots of praise.

The room is calmly returned to its usual state.

You will need:

'Please Do Not Disturb' sign

Wheeled chair

Iranian music
Fur fabric – Cheetah design
Vibrating balls
Trays for exploring
Sand
Stones (size to fit in palm of hand)
Sandpaper
Bowls of water
Torches
Persian spices eg Ras el Hanout
Sultanas
Flour in bowls
Water sprays
Towels or wipes to clean hands