

HELP

A Sensory Drama by Gill Brigg

Before the session begins, the teacher dirties their feet with soil or paint and then put socks and shoes over the top.

Pupils and adult supporters 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:

We're going to pretend a story and, to start with, I'm going to dress up.

Sad music is played to underscore the teacher getting ready.

The teacher dresses up with a sense of sad ritual:

Ripped clothing is put on top of clothes

Smudges are put on face

Raggy hat is put on head

Shoes are taken off and one sock is removed. Her feet are already very dirty

I'm going to the other end of the classroom. Come and join me, and our story will have started.

The music fades down.

The teacher sits in a dark corner.

Pupils come and sit nearby.

The teacher adopts an angry tone.

I do not have a home. I live on the street. Someone has taken my blankets. Someone has hurt my arm. I am dirty. Someone has taken my money.

Being so angry has worn out the homeless person. S/he falls asleep. Whilst the homeless person is asleep, the other staff encourage pupils to:

- Give a blanket to the homeless person

- Bandage the homeless person's arm
- Use a cloth to wash the homeless person's face/feet
- Dry the homeless person's wet hands
- Find the homeless person's shoes and socks
- Use a torch to explore the homeless person's dirty face and hands

As pupils approach the homeless person, they use a bell to wake them up.

Pupils can watch from afar or drift in and out of the action.

The homeless person can wake up and fall asleep throughout. Each time the pupils help to make them feel better, the mood of the homeless person transforms from sleepy/angry to exhausted gratitude.

You have been really kind and helpful. Will you celebrate with me?

There is a celebration, and everyone dances to The Beatles: 'Help'.

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
 Soil/washable paint
 Sad music plus The Beatles: 'Help'
 Face paint
 Torn tee shirt
 Raggy hat
 Bell
 Blanket
 Bandage
 Wet cloth
 Towel