



Journeys in the Spirit

Children's work

Additional resources 102.1

Gather

Photos



Pictures to talk about











Journeys in the Spirit

Children's work

Additional resources 102.2

Engage

Writing Letters



Story of David and Alyb

This is the story of two small boys called David and Alyb. David is seven years old and goes to school in the village where he lives. He enjoys school and likes his teacher. She is called Miss Walker. She smiles a lot and is kind to all the children.

David has made friends with other children and he plays with them in the playground and sometimes after school.

One or two of the other children can be unkind and say horrid things to some of the other children. One time two boys made David cry when they teased him because he wouldn't play fighting games with them. They are bullies.

One day a new boy came to the school. He looked different from the other children. His skin was a different colour and he wore strange clothes. His name was Alyb and he didn't speak much English. Miss Walker explained he was from a country called Syria and he had travelled a long way to get to Britain. She asked the children to look after Alyb and help him.

Alyb was quite shy and didn't know how to play with the other children. Most of the time he couldn't understand what they were saying. Slowly he began to learn English but things were still strange for him.

One day in the playground David noticed Alyb standing alone just watching the other children playing. A couple of children who were bullies, starting calling him names. David felt sorry for Alyb and could not just stand and watch. He plucked up courage to go over to Alyb. Ignoring the bullies he said hello to Alyb and took his hand and they walked away from the bullies. David was afraid they would follow and start taunting both of them. Fortunately they got bored and went back to their game. David and Alyb played quietly in a corner of the playground away from the other children.

That evening David asked his mum about Alyb and where he had come from. Mum explained Alyb's family were refugees from a country where there was a war going on. Lots of people got hurt and many died. She said Alyb and his family fled their homes to come to a safe place.

Alyb and David became good friends and played together a lot. Sometimes it was hard because the children who were bullies said Alyb should go home and David shouldn't play with him. This made David sad but he stuck up for Alyb and stayed friends with him. They did everything together and soon Alyb was speaking very good English. They were happy.

Then one day Alyb came to school and he was crying. He told David he and his family had to leave Britain and go back to the country they came from. They didn't have the right papers to stay. Alyb was frightened about what would happen to him and his family. Alyb stopped going to school.

David was sad and went home to tell mum. They talked about the situation and how unfair it was. David asked mum what they could do to help. Mum said she would speak with the family as they lived just along the road. She would find out what was happening and how they could help. David drew a picture of Alyb and himself and gave it to mum to give to Alyb.

That evening mum suggested they should write to their MP to tell him of the plight of Alyb and his family. David wanted to write his own letter so mum got him some writing paper and helped with writing the words David wanted to say.

Next day at school when the children had time to tell the class their news David talked about Alyb and read out his letter. The children asked David about Alyb. At playtime the bullies taunted David saying the family had to go home and they would tear up David's letter. But some of the other children wanted to help. They liked Alyb too. After break they talked to Miss Walker who listened and said she thought it was a good idea to write letters to help Alyb. She helped the children write more letters. They put them all in a big envelope and Miss Walker addressed the letter to the MP.

David asked mum if the letters would stop Alyb and his family having to go back. Mum said she didn't know but it was better than doing nothing. David felt he had helped his friend a little bit. He would tell Alyb what he had done and that might make him less sad.



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Engage Stories of famous Quakers who took action

Fair treatment for women

A Quaker called Lucretia Mott became very involved in the anti slavery movement and was very good at standing up and talking to people. She was clever and brave. It was also said that she was a warm and loving woman of great poise, but she was a very human person with a quick temper, a sharp tongue, and a stubborn streak.

At this time most people thought that women were inferior to men and should do as they were told - but Quakers tried to treat men and women as equals. Some people wouldn't want to listen to her just because she was a woman.

She travelled around America, talking at meetings about banning slavery. In 1840, 170 years ago, the British and Foreign Anti Slavery Society organised a big meeting in London and asked people in the United Kingdom and the USA to send people to join in.

The Anti Slavery Society in America chose both men and women to go to London.

This included Lucretia and her husband, James.

After a very long journey on a ship she got to London. At the big meeting she was amazed to discover that the men and women did not sit together. The men sat in the main section of the hall and the women sat upstairs. The women were not allowed to speak in the meeting. This was so different from her experience as a

Quaker, where Friends were valued for their gifts whether they were women or men.

When another American delegate, Elizabeth Cady Stanton tried to stand up to speak she was forced by some men to sit down. Lucretia realised that even though they were fighting slavery most of the men at the meeting were happy to treat women badly.

As Lucretia left the conference she met with Elizabeth. They were both very angry and upset about what happened. As they walked home together they talked about slavery. They had to try to change the way women and girls were treated.

When they got back to America Lucretia and Elizabeth worked to get lots of people together to try to change how women and girls were treated.

In 1848 they had a big meeting called the Seneca Falls Convention. The Convention produced a Declaration, like a big letter or poster, which listed 18 ways in which women were treated badly and differently from men. It took lots of people

a long time to make things better for women and girls. It was hard and lots of people were unkind to Lucretia and her friends but things did get better.

Note: for the Declaration see *Journeys in the Spirit children's work edition, issue 56*.

A story about taking action

In Scotland there is a lake or loch that is joined to the ocean. Ships that go under the sea are kept there. They are called submarines. On one of these submarines they keep a very powerful weapon of war. If it is used it can cause a lot of damage to buildings but also to people. Some people think having this weapon will protect us, but most people do not believe this and feel it will do much harm if used. It also costs lots of money to keep, money that could be used to build new hospitals or help poor people.

One bright day, not so very long ago, three women met on the shore. They wanted to protest that this weapon should not be used, that we do not need it and it costs too much money. They were angry about this weapon and wanted to take action.

On the loch was a boat full of machines to make sure the weapon was kept quiet and in good condition. The three women got into a little boat. They were excited but also quite scared. They wanted to go across the water to hang a sign on this boat that said "No to the weapons". But when they got there they found a window open and as no one had stopped them they climbed in. They were a bit naughty. One by one they threw the machines that helped the weapon of war into the water and the water swallowed them up. They carried on until everything was gone except a first aid kit and a water cooler. They even threw the kettle into the water, which was a shame because they would have liked a cup of tea.

They left a film saying what they had done. They wanted to get rid of these weapons so that people are safe.

They went back to the shore, went home and waited.

Eventually they had to admit what they had done and spent some time in prison. However when they went to court the judge agreed that the weapons were dangerous and should not be used. They had to pay for the damage but did not have to stay in prison.

They had brought hope to the world.

"They had beaten their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks. Nation will not take up sword against nation nor will they train for war anymore." (Isaiah – 2 v 4)

This is a quote from the Bible written a very long time ago but even then some people thought fighting each other was wrong and that weapons should be made into useful tools to plant crops, grow fruit and vegetables that would feed people.