



# Journeys in the Spirit

Children's work

Additional resources 117.B

Engage

The Bertha Bracey story

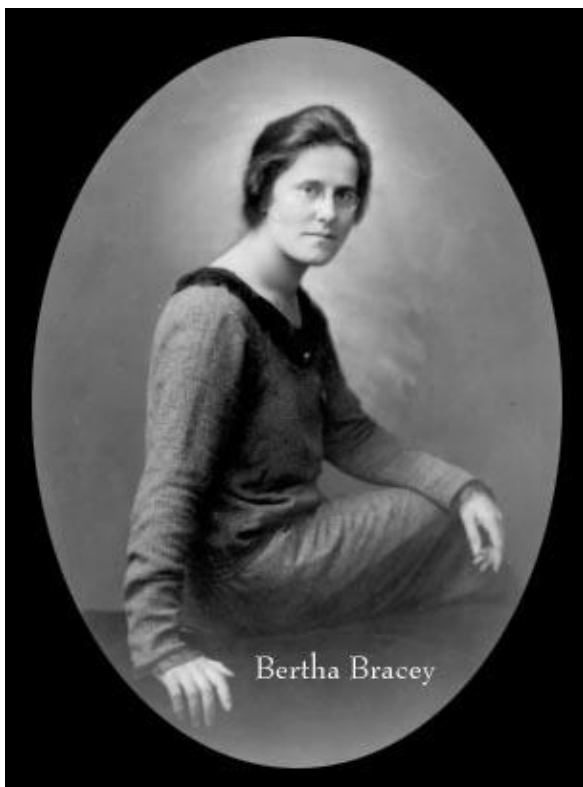


**Here is the outline of a story that you can use to talk about the work of Bertha and other Quakers on the Kindertransport.**

A long time ago there was a time when a terrible war was going to happen. It would be called the Second World War. In one of the countries that would be in that war, Germany, bad things were already happening. Lots of children who were Jewish were banned, from going to school. There had been a terrible night when soldiers and police had broken the windows of Jewish shops and synagogues (Jewish Churches) – the ground was covered in glass. It was called 'Kristallnacht' (crystal night) because of the broken glass everywhere. A man called Wilfrid Israel, a businessman in Nuremberg, asked Quakers for help. Six Quakers came to Germany from our country to find out



what was happening – Jewish people couldn't leave. When they got back home they went to see a very important man in the government (*Samuel Hoare, Home Secretary*). They were doing what we Quakers call, 'speaking truth to power'. They asked him to help bring 10,000 Jewish children to safety in our country. He said yes very fast and it began.



One of these Quakers was called Bertha Bracey. She was special. She had already helped lots of children and young people in Germany after the last big war. She was brave, strong and kind. She worked very hard to get Quakers and other people to make room in their homes for the children – all 10,000 of them. They came by train and ship – by themselves, their mums and dads had said goodbye and put them onto the trains. This was called the 'Kindertransport' – the 'children's transport.' On 1 December 1938 a train full of children left Berlin. This was the first train of the Kindertransport. The trains continued until 1st September 1939, hours before war broke out.