

COMMONWEALTH CLASS

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Teaching resource

Homelessness

In collaboration with



Homelessness

Explore the importance of shelter and home with young people and encourage them to become responsible, active citizens.

Age range: 9-14 years

Commonwealth values: Valuing the importance and contributions of young people across the Commonwealth. Tolerance, respect and understanding. Access to health, education and shelter.

Curriculum links: English, Citizenship, PSHE

Key skills: Communication, collaboration, enquiry, active participation

Learning outcomes: To raise awareness of some of the causes of homelessness and find out about some inspiring life stories of sportsmen and women.



<http://www.bbc.co.uk/worldclass/25651714>

In this Commonwealth Class film Joel Hodgson a 400m athlete, talks about his life story. Joel was born in Belize but raised in Dubartonshire, Scotland from the age of 4, by his adoptive parents. In 2006, he became homeless for a period of time, whilst living in London, before managing to secure a work placement at a law firm with the help of a homeless charity. He has now set his sights on competing in the 400 metres for Belize in the Commonwealth Games in 2014.

What does Home mean to you?

Talk about the importance of shelter and home in our lives. Ask your pupils to write or draw five things that make their home important to them and then discuss their choices with a friend or the rest of the class. If you have a partner school you could also share this with them.

Bring in an object in a box or bag that is precious to you. This could be a photograph, childhood toy or family heirloom. Ask the children try and work out what the object is inside the box. They can ask 10 questions before you reveal the object, but you can only answer yes or no. Talk about how we can sometimes take our homes and possessions for granted and how it would feel to lose your home and your precious objects.

Be aware that this may be a sensitive topic to some of the pupils in the class who may have experienced homelessness at first hand.

Discuss the different kinds of events that can cause people to become homeless. When typhoon Haiyan struck in November 2013, wind speeds of 195 miles an hour damaged over 98% of buildings in some areas leaving over 4 million people without shelter, sustainability and the environment. Discuss why this is important and why people in government should listen to the views of young people.

Aerial view of Tacloban after Typhoon Haiyan. Photo by DFID under Creative Commons licence.



We see Joel visiting his former primary school in Scotland. If you could ask Joel one question, what would it be?

Joel was helped by the charity The Big Issue. The slogan for this charity is “A hand up, not a hand-out. A recent Oxfam campaign uses the phrase “Lift Lives for Good.” Discuss with your pupils why they think these phrases were chosen, and how effective they are.

Find out about the work of these and other organisations which help people and families in time of need when they lose their homes. Design a poster and slogan to promote the work they do and perhaps organise a fundraising event for a particular campaign.



Additional Activities:

Joel's story is an inspiring one. Find out about the lives of other inspiring sports men and women from around the Commonwealth, Perhaps put together a book or documentary film or presentation about their lives to share with your partner school.

Additional Resources:

You can find out more about the work of Charities and other organisations who help people who have become homeless at the following websites:

www.oxfam.org.uk/education/resources

<http://www.shelterclassroomkit.org.uk/>

<http://www.crisis.org.uk/>

<http://www.bigissue.org.uk/>

Stone Cold by Bob Swindells is a gritty novel for young adults that tells the story of a teenager who runs away and becomes homeless. It won the Carnegie medal in 1993.



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