

COMPASSION

Introduction

'Dogger'
by Shirley Hughes



The purpose of these lessons is to develop pupils' perception, knowledge and understanding of different character virtues through the use of stories. In this lesson, the **MORAL** virtue of **COMPASSION** is explored, using the book, 'Dogger' by Shirley Hughes. To accompany these Teacher's Notes, a pupil activity and a PowerPoint are downloadable via the Jubilee Centre website (jubileecentre.ac.uk/readgrowgo).

The following supporting documents are provided online:

- Read Grow Go Introduction
- Compassion PowerPoint
- Compassion Pupil Activity
- 'Dogger' Read-Along
- Other stories in the programme including: The Whopper, The Breaking News, What Grew in Larry's Garden, Little People, Big Dreams: Greta Thunberg, Ada Twist – Scientist, Up the Creek and Counting on Katherine.



BACKGROUND INFORMATION FOR TEACHERS:

Compassion is a moral virtue which can be defined as showing care and concern for others.

Aims of the lesson:

1. **Virtue Perception:** The lesson should allow pupils to notice situations within the story which demonstrate compassion.
2. **Virtue Knowledge and Understanding:** The lesson should teach pupils the meaning of the term 'compassion'. Pupils should be able to discuss why this virtue is important, both for themselves and others.
3. **Reflection:** Pupils should be given the opportunity to reflect on the story and how they can apply the virtue of compassion to their own life.

Summary of 'Dogger'

This story is about a young boy called Dave who owns a toy dog named 'Dogger'. Dave is very fond of Dogger and takes him with him wherever he goes. Dave's sister, Bella, also loves stuffed animals. One day, Dogger goes missing and – despite looking everywhere – Dave cannot find him which leaves him feeling very upset. At the School Fair the next day, Bella wins a giant teddy bear while Dave discovers that Dogger has accidentally been put up for sale on the toy stall. Much to Dave's distress, a little girl buys Dogger and is not keen to give him back. That is until Bella demonstrates compassion and offers to swap the giant teddy bear she has won for Dogger so that her younger brother can be reunited with his favourite toy.

The following lesson plan provides a guide for teachers and suggests how the story can be used to teach about the virtue of compassion. It offers inspiration and is a suggested way to conduct a lesson to explore this virtue. Teachers are encouraged to adapt the plan to best suit the needs of their class and individual pupils. Pupils should become aware of the virtue of compassion and its meaning; the story provides opportunities to discuss and reflect which will help to develop pupils' understanding of compassion.

COMPASSION

Lesson Plan

KEY VOCABULARY: Virtue, compassion, care, caring, kind, kindness, thoughtful, loving, compassionate.

RESOURCES: 'Dogger' book or [read-along version](#) [available 12/20], Compassion PowerPoint, Compassion Pupil Activity, One Wonderful Word Compassion card, role play props.

READ

10 MINUTES

Explain to the class that they are going to hear a special story which contains an important message. You would like them to try and work out what the message is but to keep it in their head until the end of the story. Explain that you are also looking for 'One Wonderful Word' – this is the virtue which is the theme of the story – COMPASSION. Leave the questions on Slide 1 up on the screen as you read the story 'Dogger' by Shirley Hughes or, alternatively, listen to the read-along version. The 'One Wonderful Word' Compassion card should be accessible so that it can be revealed in the Grow discussion.

GROW

10 MINUTES

Discussion – ask the class to explain what they think the message of the story is. If not already mentioned, ask if they know what the 'One Wonderful Word' is. You can then reveal the COMPASSION card which can be displayed in the classroom. Explain the definition of the term 'compassion' using Slide 2. Use the Key Questions to discuss this virtue in relation to the story and the pupils' own lives. Allow the class the chance to share any real-life suggestions they have which show compassion. If the class struggle with this, you could model by sharing a suitable suggestion you have which demonstrates compassion.

15 MINUTES

Activity – Share the Compassion Pupil Activity sheet with the class. The images can also be displayed using Slide 4. The scenarios all require the use of compassion. Ask the pupils to explain what they would do in each scenario to show compassion. Give pupils the opportunity to practise role playing their responses in small groups. See Differentiation for suggestions around activity support and challenge.

KEY QUESTIONS

- Which characters showed compassion in 'Dogger'?
- How did they show compassion?
- Why do you think they showed compassion?
- How do you think Dave felt when his sister got Dogger back for him?
- Has anyone ever shown compassion to you?
- How could you show compassion to someone else?
- Why is being compassionate important?

DIFFERENTIATION

- To challenge, pupils can think of their own example of compassion and demonstrate this through role play.
- Cut the sheet into individual images. Leave one image on each table and allow pupils to visit each table as a group in a carousel formation to role play their response.
- Pupils can work in pairs and focus on one of the scenarios to role play.
- Enlarge the images and work as a whole class to role play how to show compassion.

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Lesson Plan

GO

🕒 10 MINUTES

Continue to display the compassion scenario images using Slide 4. Bring the class together again so that they can demonstrate their role play in front of each other or explain in more detail what they would do to show compassion. Discuss one way in which the class would like to show more compassion from now on, for example, helping someone if they have fallen over on the playground.

