

# CURIOSITY

## Introduction

'Ada Twist, Scientist'  
by Andrea Beaty



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 **INTELLECTUAL** virtue of **CURIOSITY** is explored, using the book, 'Ada Twist, Scientist' by Andrea Beaty. To accompany these Teacher's Notes, a pupil activity and a PowerPoint are downloadable via the Jubilee Centre website ([jubileecentre.ac.uk/readgrowgo](http://jubileecentre.ac.uk/readgrowgo)).

**The following supporting documents are provided online:**

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



### BACKGROUND INFORMATION FOR TEACHERS:

*Curiosity is an intellectual virtue which can be defined as being eager to know or learn something new.*

#### **Aims of the lesson:**

1. **Virtue Perception:** The lesson should allow pupils to notice situations within the story which demonstrate curiosity.
2. **Virtue Knowledge and Understanding:** The lesson should teach pupils the meaning of the term 'curiosity'. 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 curiosity to their own life.

#### **Summary of 'Ada Twist, Scientist'**

Ada Marie Twist is a young girl full of questions about the world around her. She shows curiosity and inquisitiveness from a very young age and is eager to learn as much as she can, particularly in the area of Science. Ada loves trying to solve mysteries, riddles and puzzles; one day a terrible smell captures her attention and she is intrigued to try and find the source. Ada asks questions, conducts research and recruits the help of her family as her curiosity continues to grow and grow. Ada Marie is named after two influential women – the mathematician, Ada Lovelace, and the scientist, Marie Curie, both of whom used their curiosity to make ground-breaking discoveries.

The following lesson plan provides a guide for teachers and gives suggestions for how to use the pupil resources. 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 curiosity and its meaning; the story provides opportunities to discuss and reflect which will help to develop pupils' understanding of curiosity.

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## Lesson Plan

**KEY VOCABULARY:** Virtue, curiosity, being curious, being interested, asking questions, learn, eager, who, what, where, when, why, how.

**RESOURCES:** 'Ada Twist, Scientist' book or [read-along version](#) [available 12/20], Curiosity PowerPoint, Curiosity Pupil Activity, One Wonderful Word Curiosity card.

### 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 – CURIOSITY. Leave the questions on Slide 1 up on the screen as you read the story 'Ada Twist, Scientist' by Andrea Beaty or, alternatively, listen to the read-along version. The 'One Wonderful Word' Curiosity 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 CURIOSITY card which can be displayed in the classroom. Explain the definition of the term 'curiosity' using Slide 2. Use the Key Questions to discuss this virtue in relation to the story and the pupils' own lives. Give the class the chance to share any questions they have about the world around them and to explain what they are curious about. If the class struggle with this, you could model by giving examples of what you are curious about.

#### 15 MINUTES

Activity – Share the Curiosity Pupil Activity sheet with the class. Encourage pupils to think of a question they would like to ask about the given topics. You may need to differentiate the activity to best suit your pupils' needs; paired, shared, group or guided work is encouraged. See Differentiation for suggestions around activity support and challenge.

#### KEY QUESTIONS

- How did Ada show curiosity?
- What types of things was Ada curious about?
- Do you think that Ada will discover what the smell was?
- Is it good to be curious and ask questions?
- What are you curious about?
- How does curiosity help us to grow?

#### DIFFERENTIATION

- To challenge, encourage pupils to ask questions about a topic of their own choice.
- 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 verbally ask questions.
- Enlarge the images and work as a whole class to verbally share questions.
- Alternatively, go on a 'curiosity' walk around the grounds and building of the school, encouraging pupils to think of questions they are curious to know the answer to.

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GO

🕒 10 MINUTES

Bring the class together again so that they can share some of the questions they would like to ask which link to the images they have been provided with. Record some of the pupils' questions around the relevant image. Pupils can be challenged to try and find out the answers to these questions after the lesson and share their findings with the class.

