

INDEPENDENCE

Introduction

'Little People, Big Dreams: Greta Thunberg'
by Maria Isabel Sanchez Vegara



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 **INDEPENDENCE** is explored, using the book, 'Little People, Big Dreams: Greta Thunberg' by Maria Isabel Sanchez Vegara. 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
- Independence PowerPoint
- Independence Pupil Activity
- 'Little People, Big Dreams: Greta Thunberg' Read-Along
- Other stories in the programme including: The Whopper, Dogger, What Grew in Larry's Garden, The Breaking News, Ada Twist – Scientist, Up the Creek and Counting on Katherine.



BACKGROUND INFORMATION FOR TEACHERS:

Independence is an intellectual virtue which can be defined as the ability to be critically independent in your thinking and action.

Aims of the lesson:

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

Summary of 'Little People, Big Dreams: Greta Thunberg'

Greta Thunberg was shocked when she learnt how much damage human beings are doing to the planet. She could not believe that Prime Ministers and Presidents were doing very little to help protect and save the Earth. Greta felt so passionately about climate change that she went and sat outside Parliament in her home country, Sweden. This inspired many other young people around the world to do the same, which eventually led to the biggest environmental protest ever. Greta continues to show independence by speaking up in front of world leaders in her campaign to tackle climate change.

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

INDEPENDENCE

Lesson Plan

KEY VOCABULARY: Virtue, independence, being independent, doing things for yourself, thinking for yourself, having your own ideas.

RESOURCES: 'Little People, Big Dreams: Greta Thunberg' book or [read-along version](#) [available 12/20], Independence PowerPoint, Independence Pupil Activity, One Wonderful Word Independence 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 – INDEPENDENCE. Leave the questions on Slide 1 up on the screen as you read the story 'Little People, Big Dreams: Greta Thunberg' by Maria Isabel Sanchez Vegara or, alternatively, listen to the read-along version. The 'One Wonderful Word' Independence 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 INDEPENDENCE card which can be displayed in the classroom. Explain the definition of the term 'independence' 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 independence. If the class struggle with this, you could model by sharing a suitable suggestion you have which demonstrates age-appropriate independence.

15 MINUTES

Activity – Give each pupil a copy of the Independence Pupil Activity sheet. Ask the pupils to tick which task they would like to be able to complete independently. Discuss the steps they need to take to be successful, including learning from an adult and then practising the task for themselves. See Differentiation for suggestions around activity support and challenge.



KEY QUESTIONS

- What problem did Greta really care about?
- What did Greta do all by herself?
- How did Greta show independence?
- What would you like to be more independent in?
- How could you achieve this?
- Why is being independent important?
- What might help someone to become more independent?



DIFFERENTIATION

- To challenge, ask pupils to think of a task they would like to be more independent in by themselves and write this on the sheet.
- Pupils can discuss in pairs which task they would like to choose and how they can become independent in that task.
- Pupils who struggle with their reading could use the pictorial version.

INDEPENDENCE

Lesson Plan

GO

🕒 10 MINUTES

Bring the class together again so that they can share which task they have chosen to be more independent in. Ask pupils to share their thoughts and to discuss what steps they need to take to achieve this goal. Encourage pupils to try and become more independent at home and in school.

