

# SERVICE

## Introduction

'The Breaking News'  
by Sarah Lynne Reul



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 **CIVIC** virtue of **SERVICE** is explored, using the book, 'The Breaking News' by Sarah Lynne Reul. 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
- Service PowerPoint
- Service Pupil Activity
- 'The Breaking News' Read-Along
- Other stories in the programme including: The Whopper, Dogger, 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:

*Service is a civic virtue which can be defined as the act of doing work that benefits other people.*

#### Aims of the lesson:

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

#### Summary of 'The Breaking News'

A piece of bad news, which is presented on the television, causes the adults in a community to feel worried. One young girl watches as her parents react to this bad news and she decides she wants to do everything she can to help. The girl begins by wanting to help in a big way but soon realises that performing small acts of service can eventually lead to a big impact. She helps those she loves through a difficult time with meaningful gestures of service which end up brightening her whole community.

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



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## Lesson Plan

**KEY VOCABULARY:** Virtue, service, serving others, thinking of other people, helping others, being thoughtful.

**RESOURCES:** 'The Breaking News' book or [read-along version](#) [available 12/20], Service PowerPoint, Service Pupil Activity, One Wonderful Word Service 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 – SERVICE. Leave the questions on Slide 1 up on the screen as you read the story 'The Breaking News' by Sarah Lynne Reul or, alternatively, listen to the read-along version. The 'One Wonderful Word' Service 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 SERVICE card which can be displayed in the classroom. Explain the definition of the term 'service' 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 service. If the class struggle with this, you could model by sharing a suitable suggestion you have which demonstrates service.

 15 MINUTES

Activity – Give each pupil a copy of the Service Pupil Activity sheet. Ask the pupils to fill their service square with different ways they can show small acts of service, both at home and in school. Teachers may need to differentiate the activity to best suit their pupils' needs; paired, shared, group or guided work is encouraged. See Differentiation for suggestions around activity support and challenge.

### KEY QUESTIONS

- Why do you think the little girl wanted to help?
- How did the girl try to serve the people around her?
- What difference did this make to their lives?
- How do you think the little girl felt when she was helping others?
- Have you ever helped someone?
- How did you feel when you helped them?
- What small things could you do to serve the people in your life?
- Why is it important that we serve one another?

### DIFFERENTIATION

- To challenge, remove the pictures from the bottom of the sheet and encourage pupils to come up with their own acts of service (either written or drawn).
- Pupils can draw their own images of service, using the pictures to help.
- Pupils can stick the pre-cut images of service into the square.

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**GO****🕒 10 MINUTES**

Bring the class together again so that they can share the different ways they can perform small acts of service, like the girl in the story. Show the pupils how all of their service squares, when put together, create a patchwork of service which can make a big impact. Display the service squares in the classroom or corridor to remind the children of their acts of service.

