

Remembering Srebrenica Primary Assembly Pack.

The charity Remembering Srebrenica works to raise awareness of the 1995 Srebrenica genocide which saw 8372 men and boys murdered in the greatest atrocity on European soil since WW2. It aims to educate young people about the events in order to help them to learn the lessons of Srebrenica and stand up to hatred and intolerance in their own communities.

We believe that children are never too young to start to learn that diversity within a community should be celebrated, not feared and that embracing difference makes our society stronger.

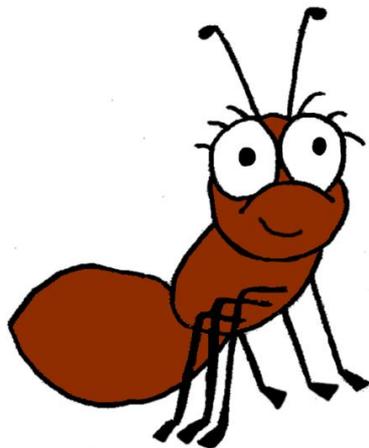
This assembly is composed as a story chosen in order to promote discussion with children about the value of difference within our society. The PowerPoint presentation which goes with the story offers a pictorial accompaniment.

There are discussion points highlighted throughout the story, with possible answers to help you guide the discussion. This story is suitable for whole school, key stage, year group or class assembly.

Srebrenica Memorial Day is on the 11th July and we ask schools to deliver this assembly in order to help young people to learn the lessons of Srebrenica.

Aims

- To encourage understanding that difference should not be a cause of prejudicial or discriminatory behaviour but should be valued and celebrated.
- To teach mutual respect for and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs and for those without faith.
- To develop understanding that we are united by our similarities and enriched by our differences.





Slide 2

Alia was an ant. Every day she woke up, stretched her legs, met her ant friends and they all walked out of the ant hill to collect leaves for the colony to eat. They walked to the bushes, picked up a piece of a leaf and took it back to the ant hill. Then they turned around and went back to the bushes, picked up another piece of a leaf and took it back to the ant hill, again and again and again. Alia and her friends collected leaves all morning. At lunchtime, they had a break and they played a game of 'fetch the leaf' to see who could collect them the quickest. Then, after lunch, the ants went back to collecting leaves until bedtime. When Alia went to bed she dreamt of collecting leaves.

[How do you think Alia feels about her day?] bored, unhappy, tired

[Do you think it is interesting when all the ants do the same job and know the same things?] No, they won't be able to learn new things, they won't have fun, they do the same things all the time because they don't know about different things they could do.

The next day Alia woke up and she was fed up. She didn't mind collecting leaves for her colony, but all her friends ever talked about was collecting leaves, and all the games they played were about collecting leaves. She was bored.

So Alia set off that morning and when she got to the bush, she walked straight past it. She walked through the bushes; she hopped on a lily-pad across a stream and climbed over a boulder.

Slide 3

She couldn't believe her eyes when she looked up from her walk. In front of her was a beautiful butterfly with blue and yellow wings fluttering above a log, a red and black ladybird was painting spots on his friends and a centipede was racing a millipede up and down the path. Alia walked over to them shyly and introduced herself.

[How do you think Alia is feeling about meeting these new and different mini-beasts?] Shy, nervous excited...

Alia met Bella the butterfly who taught her how to jump off the log and float to the ground using a dandelion, Lan the Ladybird who taught Alia to paint pretty patterns on her body and Mike the millipede who raced Alia until she was out of breath. She laughed and smiled and had so much fun that by the end of the day, she didn't want to leave; she had had such a god day with her new friends.

Slide 4

As the sun was setting Alia walked all the way back home. The next day, after she had collected leaves with her friends she taught them how to use a dandelion to float, and to race like a millipede and they all painted patterns on each other's backs. Bella, Lan and Mike often visited Alia and her friends and they all played happily together.



Concluding Questions

Why did Alia have more fun with her new friends? They did lots of different things that Alia wouldn't have got to do otherwise, she learnt some more games

Were they the same as her? They are all insects but different types.

What would life be like if we were all the same? We wouldn't be able to learn new things; it wouldn't be as interesting or as fun.

Why is it good for people to be different? They can learn new things; do different activities but still play together. It could make life more interesting.

What did they have in common? They were all insects, they wanted to be friends, they wanted to play and have fun.

Finish by asking children to turn to the person next to them. Ask them to find one thing that they have in common and one thing that is different between them. Examples might be visible (appearance) or hidden (personality).

Final Remarks

Look around the room, you all go to school, you live in England, you wear school uniform, you live in x city. These things unite us, they bring us together. But we also have differences as well, some of us go to Brownies, some go swimming, some can ride a bike, some can speak another language. These things enrich our community; we can learn from the people around us and celebrate our community.

This week, think about how you can be kind to all the people who are in your class, play together and learn from each other.