

## A special object

*History/Literacy*

### LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- To think about the personal stories of soldiers going into battle
- To understand the emotional power of objects
- To explore puppetry through studying objects.

### SKILLS TARGETED

- Speaking and listening
- Developing characters
- Descriptive writing.

### RESOURCES

- Personal objects brought from home
- Copy of David and Albert's scene from the play *War Horse*.

### SUGGESTED TIME SCALE

- 1-2 sessions

#### Step 1

Explain to the class that many soldiers carried a special object away to war with them – it reminded them of home and helped them get through their most difficult experiences.

In *War Horse*, Major Nicholls has his sketch book; Albert, his drawing of Joey; David, the photo of his girl, Flossie; and Billy, the knife his father gave him

#### Step 2

Ask everyone to bring in a special object from home – anything that feels important for any reason. Have a few objects to hand in case anyone forgets!

#### Step 3

Each child works in role as a character either from *War Horse*, or from their own research or a story they have created.

Everyone talks to as many other members of the class as possible for one minute, explaining their object: what it is, where it came from, why it is so important, etc.

Time the minutes and move the children from partner to partner using an agreed signal.

Each time the children move to a new partner, they should add another detail to the story. This can be real or invented

#### Step 4

After all the conversations have taken place, ask the children to write the story of their object – or create an imaginary new one based on all the details they have learnt from their conversations

#### Variation:

The stories could also be diary entries or letters about an incident in which an object played a significant part

#### Suggested titles:

- 'My Lucky...' (penny/tin/comb, etc)
- 'The Day I Really Needed My...' (knife/teddy/lucky necklace, etc)
- 'The Day My (tin/photograph/pebble, etc) Saved My Life'

#### Step 5

Introduce a drama exercise based around the children's detailed knowledge of their object. In pairs, children could improvise the giving and receiving of their objects before they go to war. They could also improvise a scene similar to the one in which David shows Albert his photograph of Flossie

#### Step 6

Create a gallery display of all the special objects and their stories.

### SUCCESS CRITERIA

- Children will act in role play conversations
- They will discuss their objects and build on their ideas
- They will write the details of their object's story

