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DRAMATISE 'THE WORST PRINCESS' FOR MORE GENDER EQUALITY

BRIEF OVERVIEW / DESCRIPTION

Learners read a picture book called *The Worst Princess* by Anna Kemp or watch the video. Learners discuss ideas with scaffolding. Learners compare this fairytale with other stories in which the princess wishes to find a prince charming. Learners identify the differences between this fairytale and the traditional stories of princesses and princes. Learners write a short dialogue between princess Sue and the dragon.

KEY WORD THEMES

Human rights, Gender equality

AGE RANGES:

6-12

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- Developing awareness for stereotypical gender roles and characteristics in stories and everyday life
- Encouraging gender equality and the empowerment of women
- Expressing opinion
- Valuing human dignity and human rights
- Developing co-operation skills

INSTRUCTIONS

After reading the title *The Worst Princess* and observing its cover, learners try to guess the story. The teacher asks, "Do you notice anything unusual about this title and the cover?"

Learners read (watch) the picture book with the teacher's scaffolding.

Learners discuss the story in the class group.

Learners work in pairs and write a short dialogue between the dragon and the princess making plans to fight for gender equality around the world. Some prompts: where they will go to; to whom they will speak; what they will do to raise gender equality awareness.

Learners dramatize the dialogue.

EQUIPMENT / MATERIALS / SPACE NEEDED

The picture book – The Worst Princess by Anna Kemp or a computer, projector and Internet.

TIME REQUIRED

Variable

PREPARATION

If the story is used in classes with limited English, preliminary work on difficult vocabulary is needed.

VARIATIONS / OPTIONS / EXTENSIONS

In EFL classes, depending on the age range and language level, teachers may choose to use learners' mother language or change learners' production: a debate about stereotypical gender roles and non-stereotypical gender roles; do a poster for gender equality awareness.

KEY POINTS/QUESTIONS FOR DEBRIEF/DISCUSSION/EVALUATION

The picturebook triggers a discussion about traditional female roles in society and how these traditional roles may be disclosed through simple stories such as fairytales.

Discussion questions:

1. Can you find some examples of more traditional and stereotyped stories in which the princess marries the prince charming?
2. How unusual is this story?
3. Can you think about characteristics and activities that are typical of girls and boys in this story?
4. Why is Princess Sue different from the traditional image of a princess?
5. Why is she called the Worst Princess?
6. Do you agree with this name? Why? Why not?

LINK TO ONLINE PICTURE BOOK READING OF 'THE WORST PRINCESS'

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YAGOQI-Jhqc>

'THE WORST PRINCESS' SUMMARY

The picture book is about a princess who has been waiting for a prince to come to save her from boredom. After all, she finds out that the prince is a bit more traditional than she had expected, and her life becomes worse than ever. She befriends a dragon and goes off with him exploring the world.

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