

**GENEROSITY**

**Objective:** To stimulate thinking about the effect acceptance has on me and on others.  
To understand the need to work co-operatively.  
To recognise how their behaviour affects others.  
To listen to others, play and work co-operatively.

**Key Words:** ashes, charred, cosseted, cuddled, engulf, forest, generous, illuminate, organize, owlet, stunned

**Curriculum Links:** Citizenship & PSHE at KS1: 1a,b,c. 2a,c. 4a,b. Literacy: Drama

**Materials needed:**

- The Manual or copy of lesson plan
- Silent sitting exercises from the 'Introduction' Manual
- CD player
- CD 1 track 27 (music for silent sitting) or Silent Sitting CD track 5
- CD 2 track 9, , or CD M1 track 7, for the song
- Copies of the drama script

**QUOTATION/THEME FOR THE WEEK**

GIVING BRINGS MORE HAPPINESS THAN GETTING



Discuss: What do you understand by the word generous?  
Is this quotation true? How could it be true?  
Can you give an example from your own life?

**SILENT SITTING**

Steps 1, 2 (See pages 19/20 or page 36 of the 'Introduction' Manual)

Step 5: As you listen to the music, let a feeling of love grow in your heart. Imagine caring about others and wanting to show them your love ...

The love is growing in your heart like a soft round pink cloud ...

Imagine yourself giving out this soft pink cloud of love to your family ...

to your friends ...

to people everywhere ...

to all the animals ...

to all the plants, flowers and trees ...

Imagine yourself covered in a beautiful soft pink cloud of love ...

How happy you feel.

Step 6.

## STORY TELLING

### GIVING ISA

*by Mariana Mellone*

Once upon a time, in a very beautiful forest, lived a small red squirrel named Isa. Her home was at the heart of a great big oak tree.

Isa was a hard working squirrel. Every morning as the sun came out and shone on the leaves of the trees, Isa woke up and set herself to work. First she cleaned herself, then she had some breakfast and ran right out to collect seeds, fruits and nuts for the winter. As Isa walked through the forest looking for food, she stopped to say hello to all the other animals that shared the world with her. She was always nice to everyone and always treated everyone with love, respect and affection.

There was, for example, the day when Mrs. Owl went out to get some food for her owlets and one of them fell out of the nest. Isa heard him cry and ran to him. She cared for and consoled him until Mrs. Owl returned and took him back to the nest. Another time, she found Oliver, Mr. and Mrs. Rat's youngest son, lost in the woods, too scared to move anymore. She gave him courage and love and walked with him all the way back to his hole.

That's the way Isa spent her days, working, helping and giving her love to everyone without expecting anything back.

One night there was a great storm in the forest. It looked as if the sky was falling. Thunder made the earth shake and the lightning was so bright that it illuminated the entire forest. All the animals were sheltering in their homes watching the storm through their windows. Isa poured herself a glass of fruit juice and decided to use her time by cleaning and tidying her home. She organized the seeds and nuts she had collected for the winter, putting everything away neatly. She was in the midst of separating the almonds from the walnuts when she saw the whole tree light up and a terribly loud sound deafened her. She was thrown all the way to the other side of the room. As she rolled and bumped around, she saw the rain coming into her house and felt the heat of fire as it started to burn her house.

At first, Isa did not move. She was too stunned and scared. She closed her eyes for a few seconds, drawing strength and confidence from within. Opening her eyes she knew what she must do. It was too late for her to try to save anything from her house, so she ran out to save her life. As she ran Isa saw Mr. and Mrs. Blackbird trying to save their babies. They had taken one out from the nest and left him at Mrs. Owl's home while they went back for the other. When they came back they couldn't fly back into the nest, as the fire had engulfed the higher branches of the tree. Isa saw this and rushed to save the little baby who was crying desperately in his nest. Isa was very wet, so if she was quick, her fur would not burn in the fire. She ran as fast as she could towards the nest, grabbed the baby bird and hugged him close to her, running back down the tree to the ground and to Mrs. Owl's nest where she left Baby Blackbird all wet and scared.

Mr. and Mrs. Blackbird were delighted to see their baby safe and sound. Tearfully they thanked Isa who stood at Mrs. Owl's doorway while her house burnt to ashes before her eyes. All her hard work over the past six months disappeared in the rain and fire.

As the rain poured on and homes began to fall apart or flood, the forest animals began to take refuge in each other's homes. Mr. and Mrs. Rat with all their children, along with two more squirrel families with one child each, and Mr. Skunk came to Mrs. Owl's house. They all cuddled together trying to give warmth and comfort to each other.

It rained all night long. Fortunately the heavy rain prevented the fire from spreading throughout the forest. When morning came the rain had stopped. As Isa and the other animals came out of their shelters, they discovered that the oak tree had burned almost to the roots and all that was left was a black charred trunk.

Isa looked around, but there was nothing left of her beautiful house. Mr. and Mrs. Blackbird set about quickly building a new nest in another tree. The Rat family began to bale out the water that had flooded their home using nutshells that they found for buckets. All the animals of the forest went about mending their homes as best they could. Isa sat on a rock and watched. How could she build a new home before the snows came? How could she collect enough food for the winter? How would she survive? What could she do?

As she thought about all this a small tear fell down her cheek. She did not know where to begin. Suddenly, she felt a wing on her shoulder. She turned around and saw Mrs. Owl and her children smiling at her. Next to them she saw Mr. and Mrs. Rat and their children, Mr. and Mrs. Blackbird with their babies, the Grasshopper family, the Frogs from the nearby pond, the Ant army and all the little animals of the forest. They were all round her smiling.

"Don't worry, Isa," began Mrs. Owl. "You have always given us support and love. You have helped us when we have needed you. You have cared for us and we won't leave you alone now!"

"We will help you build a new house," said Mr. Rat. "There is a beautiful oaktree next to my house. I think it will be a perfect place for your new home."

"If you tell us what to look for, we will be more than happy to help you collect food for the winter," said his son.

All the animals clapped and cheered Isa. She felt happy and supported. Soon they all set to work. Some of the adult animals helped build Isa's new house inside the oak tree, plastering the walls, painting, making furniture and curtains. Other animals searched their houses for spare kitchen utensils and blankets. The children got a list of fruits, seeds and nuts from Isa and set to finding them on the forest floor.

Soon the house was built, furnished and stocked thanks to all the animals. To celebrate they had a big party.

Isa was so grateful and happy. All the love and care she had given her friends without expecting anything back, had been returned to her with so much warmth and sweetness it made her remember what her mother had taught her when she was growing up, “True happiness comes in giving more than in getting.”

**QUESTIONS:**

1. What name would you give the story?
2. How did Isa always treat others?
3. What ways did Isa help?
4. How did she help her neighbours?
5. How did Isa feel when her house burnt down?
6. How did the animals help her?
7. How did you feel as you heard the story?
8. Does the drama remind you of anything in your life?

**GROUP SINGING**

GIVE, GIVE, GIVE

*(music and lyrics by Sara John)*

If you give from your heart  
Then you've made a good start,  
To a life that's full of joy and happiness.  
And you won't feel bad, if you haven't had  
A little something in return.  
The more we give, the more we learn.

*Chorus: Let's give, give, give, as we live, live, live  
With joy in our hearts as every day starts  
Let's give, give, give, as we live, live, live  
With love in our hearts as every day starts.*

Let us give to all  
No matter how small,  
The gift is very special indeed.  
We'll feel so glad and never feel sad,  
When a smile shines at us through the day  
We know this is a better way.

*Chorus: Let's give, give, give, as we live, live, live ...*

You can give of yourself  
In a way that will help,  
It may not be a gift you can see.  
But it works when you just give and do,  
It's a present to someone in need  
And they'll never forget your deed.

*Chorus: Let's give, give, give, as we live, live, live ...  
(Repeat chorus)*

## GROUP ACTIVITY

### 1. DRAMA

#### GIVING ISA

*The scene is set in the forest*

**Cast:**        *Narrator*  
                  *Isa, a red squirrel*  
                  *Mrs. Owl*  
                  *Oliver Rat*  
                  *Mr. Blackbird*  
                  *Mrs. Blackbird*  
                  *Baby Blackbird*  
                  *Mr. Skunk*  
                  *Other animals*

**Narrator:**    Once upon a time, in a very beautiful forest, there lived a tiny red squirrel named Isa. And she had a lovely, cosy home in the heart of a big oak tree. Isa was a very hard working squirrel. Every morning, as the sun came out and shone on the leaves of the trees, she would wake up and set herself to work. First she cleaned herself, then she had some breakfast and then she ran out to collect seeds, fruits and nuts for her winter store.

*[Enter Isa, carrying a basket into which she is putting acorns, which she is collecting from under the trees. She is smiling and humming gently to herself]*

**Isa:**            Hello Mrs Robin *[waving up at the branches of big tree]*. How are you today? All the little baby robins? I do hope you're all well! Isn't it a lovely day! Oh, do be careful, Baby Robin. You're not quite ready to fly yet!

*[Enter Mrs Owl, who is also out shopping]*

**Isa:**            Hello Mrs Owl! How well you're looking this morning. I must say, that colour does suit you! Is it a new coat?

**Mrs Owl:**    How kind of you to say so, dear. But then, you always are so kind. You are so nice to everyone and treat us all with such affection. Isn't that right, Oliver Rat?

*[Young Oliver Rat has just entered, from the opposite direction.]*

**Oliver:**        Absolutely right, Mrs Owl. I'll never forget how, one terrible day I was lost in the woods. I was so scared I couldn't move! I was even too frightened to call out for my Mum and Dad! But Isa found me, and stayed with me and consoled me, until I was brave enough to find my way back home. And do you know, Isa walked with me, every single step.

*Mrs Owl:* I'm not surprised to hear it, Oliver. What about that day when I went out to find food for my tiny owlets and, while I was gone, one of them fell out of the nest. Isa heard him crying and found him and cosseted and cuddled him until I returned.

*Isa:* *[laughing]* Don't be silly, you two! I was just doing what anyone would do. It was nothing.

*[Isa, Mrs Owl and Oliver Rat walk off stage together]*

*Narrator:* But Mrs Owl and Oliver Rat were right. That was how Isa spent her days, working, helping and giving her love to everyone, without expecting anything back in return. But one night, there was a great storm in the forest. It looked as if the sky was falling; thunder made the earth shake and the lightning was so bright, it illuminated the whole forest. All the animals were sheltering in their homes and watching the storm through their windows.

*[Scene switches to Isa, looking out of the window in her home in the oak tree.]*

*Isa:* I think I'll pour myself a nice refreshing glass of blackberry juice *[going to the 'fridge and pouring juice from a big jug into a glass.]* Mmmmm! *[smacking her lips]* That's better. Now, I could make good use of this time by doing some housework. I do so love it when everything's clean and tidy! First of all, I'll sort out all these nuts, seeds and fruits into different piles. Let's do the almonds first.....

*Narrator:* She had just started sorting the almonds from the walnuts when, suddenly, the whole tree seemed to light up! There was a loud crash that almost deafened her and poor Isa was picked up, bodily, and thrown to the other side of the room.

*Isa:* *[lying on the floor, shocked, putting her hands to her ears.]* Oh! What was that! It's getting quite wet in here now. And very, very hot. What's going on? Oh no! My tree has been struck by lightning and we're on fire!

*Narrator:* Isa closed her eyes for a moment, as if to draw strength and confidence from within. Then, opening her eyes, she knew what she must do. She got up and ran out of her house, as fast she could.

*[Scene switches to just outside Isa's tree home. As she leaves, she hears a baby bird crying.]*

*Mr Blackbird:* *[standing with Mrs Blackbird at the foot of the tree].* Oh Isa! What shall we do! Mrs Blackbird and I managed to rescue one of our baby birds and we've taken him to the safety of Mrs Owl's. But our youngest son is still in the nest and we can't get to him because of the fire. He's going to be roasted alive!

*Narrator:* Isa realises that her fur is very wet, and that if she runs fast enough, it will be enough to protect her from the fire.



**Isa:** Don't worry, I'll get to him. Get yourselves to safety. Go back to Mrs Owl's.

**Narrator:** She runs as fast she can up to the nest, grabs the baby blackbird and hugs him close to her. Then she runs back down to the ground and on to Mrs Owl's nest where Mrs Blackbird was waiting for her wet and scared baby.

**Mrs Blackbird:** *[Takes baby blackbird from Isa, and with tears in her eyes, turns to Isa who is now standing in Mrs Owl's doorway]* My dear, how can we thank you? You are so kind and brave. You could have burnt to death! Such courage and generosity! What a dear girl you are!

**Isa:** Oh that's all right, Mrs Blackbird *[her voice tapers away as she looks out of the door at what had been her home.]*

**Mr Skunk:** *[enter Mr Skunk]* I say, old chums. Any room at the inn? Lost me house and completely high and dry. Port in a storm, what? Oh I say, how kind! *[being welcomed in by Isa and Mrs Owl. There's another knock at the door].* Oh I say, is that another knock at the door? Busy, isn't it.....

*[Enter Mr and Mrs Rat, with Oliver and two more squirrel families.]*

**Mr Rat:** Mrs Owl, please could we all stay with you? Our homes have been completely destroyed in the storm. We have nowhere else to go!

**Mrs Owl:** Of course! Of course! *[scurries around them].* Now give me those wet coats - dear oh dear, you'll catch your deaths! - and get yourselves in front of that blazing fire. Now, Isa will bring you some of my nice, warm scones - just fresh from the oven - and some of my delicious, homemade wild strawberry jam and thick, clotted cream. That's right, dears, make yourselves comfortable.

**Narrator:** As the rain pours on and all the homes begin to fall apart or flood, the forest animals begin to take refuge in each other's homes. They all cuddle up together, trying to give warmth and comfort to each other. *[PAUSE. Gradual lighting change].* It's been a long night, but now it's morning, the rain has stopped and Isa and all the other animals are coming out of their shelters to inspect the damage. *[Isa goes to the old oak tree that had been her home.]*

**Isa:** Oh dear, there's nothing left of it. It's just a black charred stump of a trunk. It's burned right down to the roots. And all the food I'd stored away for the winter has gone with it! Oh, what will I do now? *[sits down on its stump].* Where will I live? I have nowhere to go! And how can I possibly build a new home before the snows come? How can I collect enough food for winter - there just isn't enough time! How will I survive?

*[Isa starts to cry. From behind Isa, enter Mrs Owl, smiling at Isa, Mr and Mrs Rat and Oliver, Mr and Mrs Blackbird with their babies, the Grasshopper family, the Frogs from the nearby pond, the Ant army and all the little animals of the forest. Mrs Owl puts her wing on Isa's shoulder, and Isa turns around to find all the animals smiling at her.]*

*Mrs Owl:* [beams at Isa] Don't worry, Isa. You have always given us so much support and love. You have helped us when we needed you. You were there for us when we were down. You have cared for us and we won't leave you alone now!

*Mr Rat:* [steps forward towards Isa] Yes, that's right. We will help you build a new house. There's a beautiful oak tree next to my house. I think it will be the perfect place for your new home.

*Oliver Rat:* And if you tell us what to look for, we will be more than happy to help you collect the food you need for the winter!

*[All the animals clap and cheer Isa. Then their actions should follow the narration]*

*Narrator:* Isa felt so happy and supported, she immediately dried her tears and started smiling again. Soon they all set to work. Some of the adult animals helped Isa to build her new house inside the oak tree next to Mr Rat's house. Then they plastered and painted the walls, and made furniture and new curtains. Other animals searched their houses for spare kitchen utensils and blankets. And the younger animals got a list of all the fruits, seeds and nuts that Isa liked to eat, and set about finding them on the forest floor. Soon the house was built, furnished and stocked, thanks to all the animals. And so to celebrate, they threw a big party.

*Isa:* [comes out of the party to talk to audience]. I'm so grateful and happy. I never expected so much love and support from everyone. They are all so kind. But they didn't have to. When I was helping them, it was because I wanted to, not because I expected anything back in return. I remember, when I was a child, my mother always used to say, "True happiness comes in giving more than you are getting." And do you know, I think she was right!

**QUESTION:**

How did you feel as you listened to, watched or acted in the drama?

## **2. Art and Craft Work**

Draw a picture of a tree and branches to put up in the classroom.

Ask the children to share whenever someone is kind to them and commemorate it by putting a leaf on the tree.

Children who have been kind can be invited to create pictures of squirrels, birds, etc. to decorate the tree.

Keep adding to the tree by creating 'fruits' when good things happen in class.

**Close the lesson:** If the teacher wishes, the lesson can be closed by asking the children to form a circle and say to the child on either side, "I will think loving thoughts and behave generously towards you."