

NOT WASTING

Objective: To stimulate thinking about the importance of not wasting, conservation and recycling.

Key Words: classical, devotion, discipline, duty, gratitude, fuel, manure, organised, wisdom

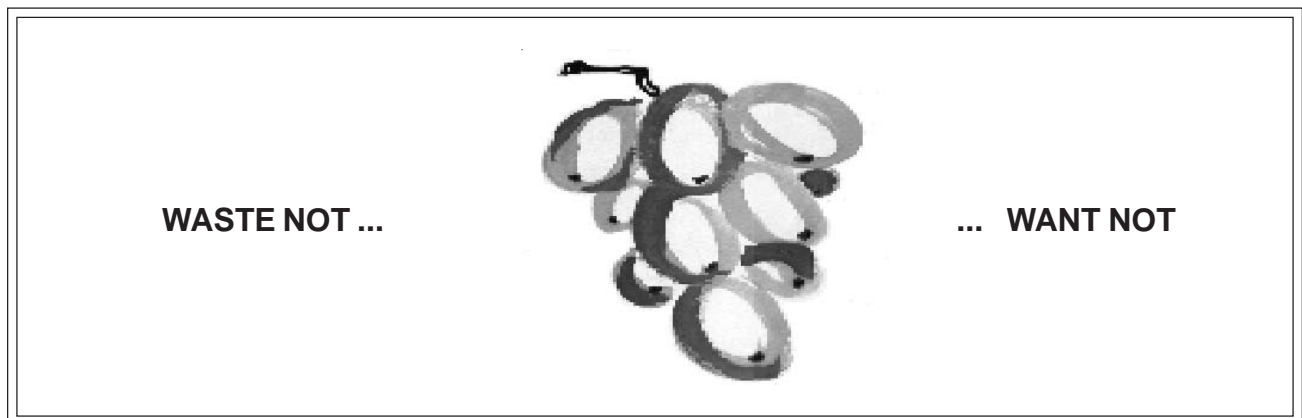
Curriculum Links: Citizenship and PSHE at KS1: 1a,b,c. 2a,c. Literacy: Drama

Science: Class project

Materials needed:

- The Manual or copy of lesson plan
- Silent sitting exercises from the 'Introduction' Manual
- CD player
- CD with music for silent sitting
- CD with music for the song
- Copies of the drama script

QUOTATION/THEME FOR THE WEEK



Discuss what this quotation means. Would it be a good thing to practise?

SILENT SITTING

Steps 1, 2, 3, (See pages 19/20 or page 36 of the 'Introduction' Manual)

Step 5: Think of a time when you saved something to use again instead of throwing it away ...

Know that you are helping our Planet Earth ...

Think of a time when you gave something you didn't use anymore to someone who would use it ...

Know that you are helping our Planet Earth ...

Step 6.

STORY TELLING

NOTHING IS USELESS

A traditional story

Dry leaves was all he wanted
Which by others are not used.
The boys went out and hunted
Came back sad and not amused.

Long ago, before there were organised schools like you go to, children went to teachers' houses for their education. When they had learned to read, write and do arithmetic and understand classical languages and anything else they needed, they went back home with the teacher's blessing and settled down to work at a profession or trade.

Once there were two pupils, who were to leave their teacher's house for home. They went to the teacher and asked, "Teacher, please tell us what we may give you as a 'thank you' gift?"

The teacher was pleased with the pupils' love and gratitude. He was very pleased with the devotion, discipline and sense of duty they showed. He wanted nothing more from them but that they be good citizens. However, he decided to add a little more to the children's wisdom.



"My dear boys," he said. "I'd like you to go into the woods behind the house and bring me some dry leaves which are of no use to anyone."

The boys wondered why their teacher had asked for this strange gift. But being obedient, they took a rake and a basket and went to the woods to collect the leaves. They soon found a big heap of dry leaves beneath a tree. As they raked up some of them, an elderly farmer came hobbling out of his shack towards them and called

out, "Please put the leaves back on to the heap. I am going to make a compost heap. They will make excellent manure to put on my field. It will produce a rich crop of grain."

The boys left the heap and went a little further into the woods. There they saw three women collecting dry leaves and putting them into their baskets. "What are you going to do with those dry leaves?" asked one of the pupils.

"Lots of things," replied the first woman. "For instance, I will burn these as fuel to heat water for the bath and to wash our clothes."



The second said, "We sew the biggest, strongest leaves together to be used as disposable plates at the church fete. I sell some to earn money this way to feed my children."

The last one said, "I collect dry leaves of this particular tree so that my husband, who is a doctor, can use them to make herbal medicines. He cures many illnesses."

The pupils then went deeper into the woods. They saw some dry leaves under a tall tree. As they were looking at them a big bird swooped down and picked up a leaf and flew away. The pupils watched the bird carrying the leaf to the top of a nearby tree, where it was building a nest of dry leaves and grass. They could not take these dry leaves as they were useful to the bird.

The boys decided to make their way back to the teacher's house. On the way, they passed a small pond and noticed big dry leaf floating on the water.



"Here is a leaf which is of no use to anyone," one boy called out excitedly and running over to the pond, he picked up the leaf. To his surprise, he saw two big red ants walking on it. Putting the leaf on the ground, the ants began running round it. "This dry leaf has been their life boat. If it hadn't been here, they would have drowned in the pond," he continued. The pupils realised that their search had been in vain and returned to the teacher's house.



Sadly, they told him, "Teacher, we found that even dry leaves have so many uses that we could not bring you even one. All the dry leaves we saw were being used for some purpose or another. We are sorry we haven't been able to bring the gift that you asked for. Please forgive us."

"My dear boys," replied the teacher. "You have given me the gift that I wanted. You now realize that even a

dry leaf is of use and is of help to people, birds and insects. How much more precious then should a person be when he works for the good of all! So take good care of yourselves and make your life, as well as the lives of others, happy. Never miss a chance to serve those who need help, those who are ill and the elderly. Never forget the lesson you learned today. Everything has a use and a value of its own. Even the snake's poison, when turned into a vaccine, can save the lives of people bitten by poisonous snakes. Yet, we often see people foolishly wasting food, time and precious resources of all kinds."

Dry leaves was all he wanted
Which by others are not used.
The boys went out and hunted
Came back sad and not amused.

*The farmer used leaves to enrich the soil
A woman burnt them, water to boil
Another made plates to put their food
A third mixed cures for the sick and rude.*

*A little bird wanted them for a nest.
The ants too found a place to rest.
The boys couldn't meet the teacher's request
And returned feeling they'd failed to complete the test.*

But the teacher was delighted
Dear boys, another thing you've learnt!
So do not be down-hearted
Everything has so much worth.

Be happy, always helping
Whenever there is a need.
No waste, all things are useful
From great tree to tiny seed.

QUESTIONS:

1. What name would you give this story?
2. Why did the children have to go to the teacher's house to study?
3. Why did the children want to give something to their teacher?
4. What did the teacher tell them when they asked what they could give him?
5. Were the children able to get what the teacher wanted?
6. What did the farmer use the leaves for?
7. What did the three women use the leaves for?
8. What did the bird use the leaves for?
9. What did the ant use the leaves for?
10. How did you feel when you heard this story?
11. Did this story remind you of anything in your own life?

GROUP ACTIVITY

1. DRAMA

NOTHING IS USELESS

The scene is set in the woods outside the Teacher's home. The teacher is sitting and talking with his pupils.

Cast:
Narrator
Teacher
Pupil 1
Pupil 2
Farmer
First Woman
Second Woman
Third Woman
Poet

Narrator: Long ago, before there were organised schools, children went to teachers' houses for their education. When they had learned to read, write and do arithmetic and understand classical languages and anything else they needed, they went back home with the teacher's blessing and settled down to work at a profession or trade.

Teacher: My dear pupils, you are both going to leave my house shortly and return home. There is little more that I can teach you.

Pupils: Teacher, please tell us what we may give you as a thank-you gift?

Narrator: The teacher was pleased with the pupils' love and gratitude. He was very pleased with the devotion, discipline and sense of duty they showed. He wanted nothing more from them but that they should be good citizens. However, he decided to add a little more to the children's wisdom, so said to them.

Teacher: Dear students. Go into the woods behind the house and bring me some dry leaves which are of no use to anyone.

Narrator: *(Boys go off into the wood)* The boys wondered why their teacher had asked for this strange gift. But being obedient, they took a rake and a basket and went to the woods to collect the leaves.

Pupil 1: Here's a big heap of dry leaves beneath this tree. Let's rake up some of them.

Narrator: *(Enter farmer)* Before they could finish, an elderly farmer came hobbling out of his shack towards them.

Farmer: Please put the leaves back on to the heap! I'm going to make a compost heap. They will make excellent manure to put on my field. It will produce a rich crop of grain.

Narrator: The boys left the heap and went a little further into the woods. There they saw three women collecting dry leaves and putting them into their baskets.

(Enter first woman)

Pupil 2: What are you going to do with those dry leaves?

First Woman: Lots of things. For instance, I will burn these as fuel to heat water for the bath and to wash our clothes.

(Enter second woman)

Second Woman: We sew the biggest and strongest leaves together to be used as disposable plates at the church fete. I also sometimes sell some to earn money to feed my children.

(Enter third woman)

Third Woman: I collect dry leaves of this particular tree so that my husband, who is a doctor, can use them to make herbal medicines. He cures many illnesses.

Narrator: The pupils then went deeper into the woods. They saw some dry leaves under a tall tree. As they were looking at them, a big bird swooped down and picked up a leaf and flew away. The pupils watched the bird carrying the leaf to the top of a tree nearby, where it was building a nest of dry leaves and grass. They realised that they could not take these dry leaves because they were useful to the bird. So they decided to make their way back to the teacher's house. On the way, they passed a small pond and noticed a big dry leaf floating on the water.

Pupil 1: Here is a leaf which is of no use to anyone *(he runs over to the pond and picks up the leaf)*

Well what a surprise. There are two big red ants walking on it. I had better put the leaf on the ground.

Pupil 2: Look, the ants are running round it. This dry leaf has been their lifeboat. If it hadn't been here, they would have drowned in the pond.

Pupil 1: Oh dear. I don't think that we'll ever find any leaves that are useless. Someone always wants to use them for something. Let's go back to our teacher's house. What a shame, we have failed to get him what he wanted.

Narrator: Sadly, they returned to the school house and went to the teacher.

Pupil 1: Teacher, we found that even dry leaves have so many uses that we could not bring you even one. All the dry leaves we saw were being used for some purpose or another. We're so sorry that we haven't been able to bring the gift that you asked for. Please forgive us.

Teacher: (laughing) My dear boys, you have given me the gift that I wanted. You now realize that even a dry leaf is of use and is of help to people, birds and insects. How much more precious then, should a person be when he works for the good of all! So take good care of yourselves and make your life, as well as the lives of others, happy. Never miss a chance to serve anyone who needs help, those who are ill and the elderly. Never forget the lesson you learned today. Everything has a use and a value of its own. Even the snake's poison, when turned into a vaccine, can save the lives of people bitten by poisonous snakes. Yet, we often see people foolishly wasting food, time and precious resources of all kinds.

Poet:

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QUESTION:

How did you feel when you heard, saw or acted in this drama?

2. Discussion: The Importance of Nature to me

Ask the pupils each to bring in something from a garden, from nature, e.g. a leaf, blade of grass, stone, feather, etc.

Sit in a circle and each in turn talk about its importance to him/her.

What I like about my object is ...

Do not pick the flowers for this exercise, instead find something lying on the ground.

3. Avoiding Being Wasteful

Get into groups of four and discuss things we can do:

to avoid wasting things at school , I will ...

*to prevent wasting of energy at school and at home e.g. gas, electricity
I will ...*

*to keep the environment clean e.g. prevent pollution, recycling
I will ...*

One person from each group may present this to the whole class.

GROUP SINGING

LET'S CARE

(music by Stuart Jones

lyrics by Sara John)

Let's care, let's share
Our beautiful world.
All creatures and people
Together, forever.

(Repeat x 3)

Close of lesson:

The teacher and pupils may join in a circle and say, "Nature has provided us with so many useful things and we will treat them with consideration and care and not waste anything."

Class project: the children research local wildlife sanctuaries and draw pictures of some of the animals kept there and write about their habits, especially life-cycles.