

Topic: ACCEPTING AND LEARNING FROM MISTAKES

Objective: To encourage a sense of self-understanding and a mature sense of self-worth and realising that it is okay to make a mistake and that it is part of our learning process.
To weigh respective claims of self interest.
To gain the ability to identify and articulate matters of deep conviction and concern.

Curriculum Links: Citizenship, Drama, English, Geography, Music, PSHE, RE

Key words: compensation, emphatically, hammock, ravine, sparsely

Materials needed:

- The Manual or copy of lesson plan
- Page 36 and 37 of the Introduction Manual
- Coloured pens and crayons
- Art paper or card
- CD player
- CD with music for silent sitting
- CD with music for the song
- Photocopies of handout for extension work
- Pages of the drama for 7 pupils

QUOTATION/THEME FOR THE WEEK



**OUR GREATEST GLORY IS, NOT IN THE FALLING,
BUT IN RISING EVERY TIME WE FALL**
Oliver Goldsmith

What do you think this means?

Can you remember mistakes you have made which have taught you valuable lessons?

SILENT SITTING

Step 1 (*See page 36 of the Introduction Manual*)

Step 5: Guided Visualisation on Light exercise (*See page 37 of the Intro Manual*)

Step 6.

DRAMA

SASHA'S MISTAKE

by Tessa Hillman

The scene is set in a beautiful part of northern Australia. Scene 1 is at Sasha's parents farm.

Characters:

- Narrator*
- Sasha, aged 16*
- Michael, known as Spud, aged 15*
- Mr. Jefferson, from England*
- Mrs. Jefferson*
- Suki Jefferson, aged 12*
- Brian Jefferson, aged 9*

Sasha: I am so excited that we have new neighbours from England. I hope we can meet them soon. My brother, Michael, or Spud as he's known, and I get quite lonely living in here. There aren't many people around these parts.

Michael: She's right. But, there are compensations. This area is said to be as beautiful as the Garden of Eden - except for the flies! It is hot and steamy at times and wild fruit grow freely on the trees and bushes. They all look delicious - shining orange, purple and red.

Sasha: Yes, but some of them would make you very sick if you ate them.

Michael: Dad told me that Mr. and Mrs. Jefferson have sold up everything in England and intend to start a new life with their daughter, Suki, who is twelve and their nine year old son, Brian, in northern Australia. They bought a plot of land, a caravan and an old car, all fairly cheaply, from people who had decided that living in the wilds was not for them and were going back home to Good Old England, (Grey Old England, some people think!)

(Scene 2 The Jeffersons farm next door)

Mr. Jefferson: It's wonderful being in a country of sunshine. I'm planning to cultivate grapevines, kiwi fruit and pineapples.

Suki: And I'm looking forward to helping you, Dad. And I won't have to go to school. I was happy at school in England and I missed my friends when I moved up from the Primary School. Then when my eyesight started giving me trouble, the corridors and classrooms in the large new school all looked the same to me. But that was in the past now and Mum is going to teach me instead.

Mrs. Jefferson: I was a teacher before the children were born. It will be nice getting my hand in again and teaching Suki here at home.

Mr. Jefferson: We're lucky. Our new neighbours are friendly and helpful.

Suki: Yes and I like their daughter, Sasha. She knows so much and shows Spud and me which of the many wild fruits are good to eat.

(A few weeks later)

Sasha: Mrs. Jefferson, would Suki and Brian like to visit Canyon Pass with us. It's a great beauty spot.

Mrs. Jefferson: That's very nice of you to include them in your outings, Sasha. Off you go and be careful, Suki. All stay together.

(Scene 3 Canyon Pass)

Sasha: This is Canyon Pass. It is a deep ravine with a river running along it. We can cross it by a rope bridge about twenty metres long. It's exciting crossing the bridge because it sways and rocks as you walk on it. There are planks along the bit you walk on, and hand rails to hold on to. Don't worry, there is a safety rope running half way between the hand rails and the planks. I'll show you both how to cross, holding on to the handrails.

Brian: This looks exciting! Come on, Suki. Follow me.

Suki: Oh Brian, I'm frightened. The ravine is so deep and the river far below is flowing fast and is really threatening.

Sasha: Come on Suki. Hurry up.

Suki: Oh dear! I don't want them all to think I'm a coward.

Brian: Don't look down, Sis! Sasha and I have got over. Wow, that's amazing! *(He turns to Sasha)* Suki's still standing in the middle of the bridge. She seems to be rigid with fear.

Sasha: Come on, Suki. You're doing great. Keep going.

Suki: I can't. I've dropped my glasses into the river. I can't see!

Sasha: (horrified) Why was I so thoughtless as to take someone who has trouble seeing, into such a dangerous place? I feel sick with worry. My stomach's tightened into a knot. Look, Brian, Suki's glasses are hanging by an arm stuck into the rope beside one of the planks. Don't tell Suki. I'll go and try to get them and then concentrate on getting Suki back safely. You wait here, Brian, until I've helped Suki get back and she's off the bridge.

Narrator: Sasha slowly made her way back across the bridge, trying not to rock it. Suki looked the colour of a peeled onion.

Sasha: (trying to sound reassuring) Turn round slowly, Suki, and feel your way back along the bridge. Don't be scared. I'm right behind you.

Narrator: Suki, too frightened to speak, just nodded and gingerly edged herself round shuffling forward inch by inch. Then the bridge started to wobble and shake and Suki stopped, her knuckles white as she gripped the rope tightly, trying to keep her balance. It was Brian who didn't want to stay on the far side alone. Fortunately when he reached Sasha he followed quietly, so she was able to talk Suki back. When they reached the other side, Suki flops down on a tussock of grass. Sasha drops down beside her.

Sasha: I'm so sorry for being so foolish as to take you on that bridge, Suki. I suppose I just wanted to show off.

Suki: (smiling and almost crying with relief) I think maybe I only went on it to impress you, too. And now I've lost my glasses.

Brian: (Jumping in between them, wearing Suki's glasses) Are these the ones?

Suki: (Taking her glasses and giving him a hug) Oh, Brian!

Sasha: If you're okay now Suki, we'll go home.

(Scene 4 Approaching the farm, Michael comes to meet them)

Michael: Where have you lot been? I'm the search party sent out to find you.

Sasha: Oh, Spud. I did such an awful thing. I took Suki over the bridge at Canyon Pass and she dropped her glasses and got stuck. She could have fallen over the side and it would have been all my fault. Brian got her glasses back.

Brian: Fortunately they were stuck in the ropes, so it wasn't difficult.

Michael: Well done, Brian, for finding them. *(Turning to Sasha)* Well, big sister, I don't suppose you'll make that mistake again. Even I wouldn't send a couple of newcomers over that bridge. I hate going over it myself. Still you handled it well and Suki is safe now. So come on, let's get back.

Sasha: Suki, come and lie in my hammock to recover. Then we'll all have a cold drink before you go home.

Narrator: Later Sasha told her mother what had happened. Her mother was pleased that Sasha realised it was her fault because, she said, that was the way you learned about life. Mistakes are okay as long as you can learn not to do it again.

Sasha: (emphatically) No way will I do it again, Mum! No way!

Key words: Look up any of the words in the dictionary that you have not understood and make sure you understand them and can spell them.

QUESTIONS: Support answers to questions 1 to 9 with evidence from the text.

1. Why do you think Sasha took Suki and Brian to the Canyon Pass?
2. What happened to Suki in the middle of the bridge?
3. Why was Sasha so angry with herself?
4. How did Brian try and break the tension?
5. Why was Sasha's mother pleased with her daughter?
6. Why were Suki and Brian so keen to do what Sasha asked them to do?
7. How did Sasha not act responsibly?
8. How did Sasha act responsibly?
9. What values are depicted in this drama?
10. How did you feel when you heard the story?
11. Did it remind you of anything in your own life?

GROUP ACTIVITY

1. **Discuss changes of lifestyle** from England to the warmer countryside of the northern part of Australia.

2. **In groups of four, discuss** the following statement:

There are no mistakes, only lessons. Growth is a process of trial and error, experimentation. The failed experiments are as much a part of the process as the experiment that ultimately works.

Extension Work : A Private Movie

Every evening when you go to bed, be the filmstar in your own movie. Review your day and ask yourself:

What could I have done better today?

How could I have phrased something so as to have spoken more kindly?

How might I have helped a situation?

Be kind to yourself. Tell yourself:

I accept any mistakes I have made.

But next time I will handle the situation differently and better, so as not to hurt myself or anyone else.

Keep a diary of any useful information you discover about yourself. Note any changes in the way you deal with situations? Congratulate yourself on any improvements you see.

Citizenship Link: Programme of study: 3a use imagination to consider other people's experiences.

English Link: Spelling 7: Spelling key words; Reading 2: use reading strategies ...; Vocabulary 15: use a dictionary; Drama 15: develop drama techniques.

Geography Link: page 23 - 3c: describe and explain the physical and human features that give rise to the distinctive character of places.

3d: explain how and why changes happen in places, and the issues that arise from these changes.

History Link: 2 a: describe and analyse the relationships between the characteristic features of the periods and societies studied including the experiences and range of ideas, beliefs and attitudes of men, woman and children in the past.

PSHE Link: 4 Breadth of opportunities: 4a Taking responsibility for our actions

RE Link: Discuss the value of a framework for relationships and interpersonal behaviour in the home.

GROUP SINGING

SCHOOL OF LIFE

(lyrics by Deirdre West, music by Stuart Jones)

In school you take a lesson,
That's followed by a test,
Without them there's no progress,
It has to be confessed.
If you want promotion
Up to a higher class,
Then you will have to take the test,
You'll also have to pass. You'll also have to pass.
You can pass, you can pass, you can pass.

In life we have another school
The routine is the same:
We hear some words of wisdom
And to practise them's the aim.
The examination comes
To test our understanding,
To test our strength of character
And see our love expanding. See our love expanding.

Don't seek the faults in others.
Seek your own instead.
Harsh words can have truth in them,
Be grateful they've been said.
You may not have been quite aware
Of some mistake you made,
Harsh words are then a blessing,
So do not be dismayed.
So do not be dismayed.

See our love expanding. Our love expanding.
See our love expanding.