

Start with a Story

Stories can be a great way into learning about global issues even with very young children. These activities provide some starting points.

Aims

- To use picture and stories as a way in for exploring global citizenship themes.
- To encourage children to explore different points of view.
- To unpack assumptions children might have around an issue or a place.

Choose a Book

First you need to choose a book. This might be something connected to an issue the children are already interested in exploring or you can take a look at our [fiction list](#) where we have selected books for the way in which they make Global Citizenship themes accessible.

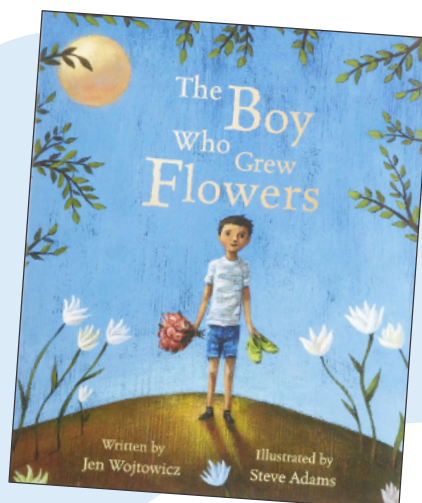
Titles

Exploring the title can draw on children's experiences and generate interest in the text. Ask the children what the title means to them. This is also a good way to explore children's assumptions about a text or theme they are not familiar with creating a 'baseline' around what the children already know or think they know. What do the words in the title mean to you? Does it remind you of anything? What things like this have you done?

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What things like this have you done?



Pictures

Read the first few pages of the story without showing children the pictures. Then ask them to draw their own illustrations for the stories. Then compare them with the original pictures. The children's drawings can reveal their assumptions and can be used as a basis for work about misconceptions.

Explore the pictures with the children. What are the similarities to their lives? What are the differences? Remember activities like eating, drinking, playing and going to school are universal.

When you have finished the story ask them to think about what might happen next in the story. They can draw or paint what happens to different characters after the ending. Or they can imagine that they are in the story and what they would do next and draw that.

Choose a picture from the book and discuss what they can see and what might lie outside the borders. Ask the children to draw what lies beyond the frame and explain their choices.

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Start with a Story (continued)

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Speech Bubbles

This technique can help children develop empathy with different characters in the story. By filling in or imagining speech or thought bubbles they can see the different points of view of a character and start to understand that people can have different perceptions of the same event.

Get the children to imagine conversations between characters. They can use a picture from the books as a stimulus. Choose a part of the story with 2 or 3 characters and discuss what we know about them and their personalities. What might the characters say to each other?

Find an example where characters in the same situation view things differently. Explore what they might be thinking.

Ask the children to imagine themselves in the place or situation in the story. What might they say or think? Would it be different from what the character in the story might say or think?