

This mini-play describes how a cow can make a difference to a family of orphans in Uganda. It is written to be fun and so that quite a few pupils can be involved. It includes some elements of Citizenship, but is mainly useful in the English curriculum as outlined below:

#### ENI Drama

4) To participate in a wide range of drama activities and to evaluate their own and others' contributions, pupils should be taught to:

- create, adapt and sustain different roles, individually and in groups
- use character, action and narrative to convey story, themes, emotions, ideas in plays . .

Literacy link: (Year 5 Term 1) TL 19,20 annotating scripts, evaluating drama

The play is set in a field in the UK (where the Cow, Sheep, and Mole live) and in Uganda (where Ruth, the children and Comfort the cow live). The birds fly between each place during the play.

**Cow** – this role can be seen as the main narrator. The teacher could take this role, enabling them to prompt the Birds and the Sheep who also have a narration role. The Cow needs a costume/mask.

**Birds** – these are migratory birds that are able to move from the UK to Africa (across the 'stage' during the play). They can move around and make little comments about what they see.

**Mole** – this character brings some facts and learning into the play. He can look very clever (glasses?) and have his own little desk.

**Sheep** – these add to the narration, but use song. So, when their lines are delivered they have to sing them!

**Ruth** – the orphan who has received the cow. Ruth should be wearing some brightly coloured cloth and needs to act out what is narrated.

**Comfort** – this is Ruth's (Send a Cow) cow and will not need to say much. She will also need some kind of costume to show that she is a cow.

**The children** – these are Ruth's brothers and sisters (who are also orphans). They need to act out their role and be happier by the end of the play.

**Mum/or Dad** – a walk on part. Dressed up as a parent going food shopping.

Some Props and the Powerpoint slides will obviously add to the enjoyment for the audience. If given enough practice this could really be something for them to remember!

- Cow** Hello. We are some local animals from (local place name). We're here to tell you a story today. We heard it from the birds that visit our field here in the UK and then go to Africa on their holidays.
- Birds** (walk around the stage flapping) Hi there!
- Cow** Nice of you to visit our field again. I'm just telling these people that story about the famous animal. The one about a cow like me, but who lives in Africa - Uganda to be precise.
- Mole** (sitting at his desk with 'Mr Mole' sign) Ah. . . very interesting. Oh, hello, I am Mr Mole and I live in (local place). (Clears throat) Did you know that Uganda is a country in the middle of Africa? The people there only earn about one pound a day! And did you know that Uganda is a poorer country than the UK? Most people can't afford things that we take for granted like healthy food, good houses, free hospitals and new clothes.
- Cow** We're going to explain how cows like me can change people's lives.
- Sheep** (bunching together to sing) Making the world a better place, baa, baaa!
- Cow** This is Ruth from Uganda. She is 12 years old.
- Ruth** (walks on to stage, waves and smiles) Mulaho!
- Cow** And these are her younger brothers and sisters.
- Children** (walk, skip onto stage) Hello everyone!
- Cow** This is serious stuff. She's had some major difficulties in her life. First she grew up without her mum and dad and then she didn't have the right food to stay healthy. Not only food for her, but her brothers and sisters too! It's different in the UK, most people can afford to go out to the shop and buy food.
- Mum/Dad** (walks across stage, holding supermarket bags of shopping, smiles, says line and then walks off stage) Hello there! I've been to (ASDA, Tesco, Co-op etc).

- Mole** But in Uganda about half the people are very poor and one in every four children aren't able to eat the right foods. So, most parents can't afford to buy their children fresh fruit and vegetables.
- Birds** (stand behind Ruth looking sorry for her) Ruth was very unhappy and she had to look after all of her brothers and sisters with hardly any money.
- Sheep** Living wasn't easy for Ruth and her family, she had to struggle to survive and keep her human dignity, baa, ba, baaa!
- Cow** Some people in the village decided she needed help and asked for a cow from the charity Send a Cow. Ruth was very pleased to be given such a great cow and named the cow Comfort, because it was a real comfort to have.

(Comfort comes on stage and Ruth hugs her. Ruth and the children are very happy to see the cow).

**Comfort** Moo. . . nice to meet you.

**Cow** Comfort has made a big difference to Ruth and her family, because cows bring all kinds of good things with them.

**Comfort** Moo. . . very true.

**Mole** A top quality cow like Comfort can give 20 litres of milk a day. An ordinary Ugandan cow gives 2 litres. So, you can see why Comfort is so popular. And a cow not only brings milk to people but it makes plenty of manure.

(Comfort passes over some cartons of milk to Ruth)

**Cow** And that's not all.

(Comfort produces some brown cloth or paper cow-pats)

**Mole** It's no laughing matter, manure can be added to the soil to help vegetables grow really well. Good fruit and vegetables mean healthy, happy people. Not bad for poo is it?

(Ruth acts out putting manure on soil, planting vegetables and then giving them to her brothers and sisters, who eat them)

**Cow** So Ruth was able to give her family milk, fruit and vegetables and she even sold the left over milk from Comfort at a market.

**Sheep** Giving them cash, money, readies, dosh, lolly, wonga! ga, gaa!

(Ruth gets out some pretend money)

**Birds** And this helped them buy some things they needed. What do you think they bought with the money from the milk?

**Sheep** Medicine and shoes and school books too, clothes and some soap and a roof that's new, baa, ba, baaa.

(Ruth and the children show the props that they have and smile)

**Cow** Now Ruth's family are very happy. They eat healthy food and have some of the things that they badly needed. Good going, my African relative.

**Comfort** Moo... thanks. And thanks to Send a Cow!

**Cow** We're going to do some sponsored events to be able to give someone else like Ruth a quality cow – there are plenty of people like her, so we're hoping that you can help us.

**Sheep** Try a sponsored read or a walk or a feed, try a mufti day or make a cow from clay, anything that's funny can bring in the money so we can give people cows and put food in their tummies. Baa, baa, ba, baaa!

THE END