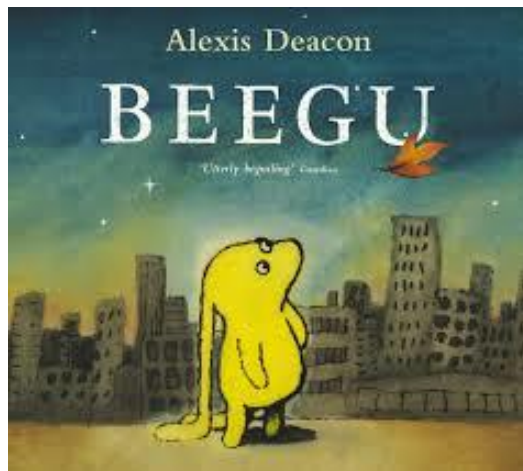


A class reflection based on 'Beegu'

by Alexis Deacon



Teacher notes

This is a good story for exploring themes of friendship, loneliness and welcoming strangers. Beegu is stranded on Earth after her spaceship crashes and finds that most Earth creatures are unfriendly, except for 'some small ones who seemed hopeful.' The story is an encouragement to befriend others, even when they don't look like us or it's hard to communicate with them.

If you wanted to do more extended work on Beegu with a KS1 class, there are lots of creative ideas on the [CLPE website](#).

Introduction

PowerPoint slide 1 Show the image of Beegu after her spaceship has crashed. What do the children notice? Who might this be? What might have happened to them? How do they think the story will unfold?

PowerPoint slide 2 Play the YouTube video of the story and ask them what they think the story is about: Friendship? Being lost? Loneliness? Something else?

Reflection Questions

PowerPoint slide 3 What happened when Beegu tried to communicate with the rabbits and the leaves? The leaves don't even stay still to listen. Look at Beegu's body language as she tries to copy them. What would it be like to be in a place where nobody can understand you?

PowerPoint slide 4 What about when she meets the children? How do things change? Have you noticed how Beegu's ears express her feelings? How do the children feel about Beegu? How do you know? (E.g. they don't want her to leave.)

PowerPoint slide 5 When Beegu talks to her parents about Earth, she says most of the people were unfriendly, but ‘some of the small ones seemed hopeful.’ What do you think she means by that? What difference do you think it made to Beegu when the children played with her?

Do you think we can learn anything from this story? Does it matter that Beegu looks different? Is it a problem that they don’t speak the same language?

Can you think of any situations when it would be good to remember the message of this story? What if a new child joined your class who didn’t speak English? What if a family moved into your road who came from somewhere different? How could you make them feel welcome? Encourage the children to suggest practical ideas for welcoming a newcomer. When might this be difficult?

PowerPoint slide 6 Christians believe that welcoming strangers is very important. In Matthew 25, Jesus tells his followers that when they welcome a stranger (or feed someone who’s hungry, or look after somebody) it’s as if they’re doing it for him, and they will be rewarded for it.

What could we do differently as a result of this story?

(With older children you could discuss the fact that sometimes Christians have got this wrong and have discriminated against people who look different or follow another religion – some American Christians supported Donald Trump when he wanted to build a wall to keep Mexican immigrants out and wanted to stop people from some Muslim countries entering the country – and there are lots of other examples of this in history - but generally Christians try to be active in welcoming strangers, refugees etc. Obviously people with a wide range of beliefs also try to be welcoming!)

Final Prayer

PowerPoint slide 6 Invite the children to join in with this prayer – or one like it – or ask volunteers to say their own prayers based on the ideas you have talked about. If they agree with the words, they can say ‘Amen’ at the end.

Dear God, thank you for all our friends,

The ones who are like us, and the ones who are different.

Please help us to be friendly to everyone we meet,

And to be good at welcoming strangers.

Amen.

Final Activity



Depending on the age of your class, there are different ways to unpack what they have learned from Gerald's story. If time permits, you could use one of these ideas.

What did we used to think we couldn't do that we can do now?

What are the things that we can't do yet? Whistle? Swim? Ride a bike? Do a handstand?

What mindset do we need to help us achieve these goals? We need to listen to the voices in our head that tell us we can do things – like Gerald did!

You might like to make handprint giraffes, and label them with some of the things that we can't we do yet. Make this positive, with the emphasis on the idea that one day we'll be able to do all sorts of things if we're confident and keep trying!

Alternatively, with older classes: What does it mean to march to a different beat? You could play the Little Mix song (**PowerPoint slide 5**) (It's worth cueing this up beforehand, so you can skip the ads!) and discuss what it means to do your own thing. Is this always a good thing? Are there times when it could get you into trouble? Does this matter? Are there situations when it's good to stand out from the crowd? Are there times when it's better to 'go with the flow?'