**The Tin Forest**

**(Appreciating God’s creation)**

**Reflection 2**

This is the second in a series of three reflections based on the book The Tin Forest. The series encourages children to reflect upon the wonders of creation and forms part of the resources to support the Diocesan Education Team’s Ten:Ten#Flourishing project for this academic year.

**These reflections are designed for a Year 3 or Year 4 class but can be adapted for younger or older children.**

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**The Tin Forest by Helen Ward and Wayne Anderson**

A tale of transformation. An old man lives in a grey and forsaken place ‘that looks out on other people’s rubbish and bad weather’. He dreams of a wild and colourful place and uses the resources around him in such a creative way that change begins to happen. A natural forest becomes entwined with one of metal.

The book retails on Amazon for £7.25.

**Overall aims of these reflections.**

* To engage children with a story with which they will empathise.
* To explore the themes of Creation and stewardship; and through discussion, enable children to make connections with their own lives.
* To give thanks for the beauty of God’s world.
* To develop creative responses to the text through drama, storytelling and artwork.

**Record all the children’s feelings and reflections from this session and retain for next time.**

**You will need:**

Small pieces of paper or card

A pencil for each child

Large glass jar or bowl

A few battery operated tealights

Read aloud from the beginning up to ‘*and every night the old man dreamed’* but **do not reveal the images that accompany the text.**

* Ask the children to work in small groups or pairs and discuss what the old man might dream about, what are his hopes? Encourage the children to refer back to the previous images and what was discussed last time about the Bible and light to make predictions and to justify their responses.
* Give the children time to imagine the old man’s hopes. Encourage each child to note down an idea that they have had on small pieces of paper.
* Put a glass jar or bowl in the centre of the room and tell the children to put their completed papers into the jar. You may want to enhance this further by using battery operated tea lights inside the jar, which will cast a glow and light up the hopes and dreams.
* Ask the children to explain what they have written. Read aloud the next page in which it is revealed that the old man dreams of living in a colour world full of plants and animals. Explore why the man is trying to create a beautiful world, why is it important?

Tell the children that Compare and contrast the this with images of God’s creation by playing the link below.

<https://youtu.be/32TxpiGTOio>

Ask the children how this story is similar to the story of creation and whether the old man is like God, creating a world of colour and life out of greyness.

**Tell the children that next time they will look at the creation story and see how what the man does reflects what we hear about in the Bible.**

**Closing Prayer**

Thank you, Lord, that you created such a beautiful place for us to live.  
We pray, Lord, that we may live out  
the trust you put in us to look after your world for you.  
Help us to love and care for those around us  
both near and far.  
**Amen.**

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| **Links to other texts and resources to explore the reflection themes**  Books which explore similar themes:  • The Great Kapok Tree: A Tale of the Amazon Rain Forest by Lynne Cherry (Harcourt Brace)  • The Promise by Nicola Davies and Laura Carlin (Walker)  • Window by Jeannie Baker (Walker)  • Where the Forest Meets the Sea by Jeannie Baker (Walker)  • The Tiny Seed by Eric Carle (Puffin)  • For further texts please see the CLPE Environment booklist: https://www.clpe.org.uk/environment-booklist  For information about the authors of the book:  • http://helenward-illustrator.co.uk/  • http://www.wayneandersonart.com/Wayne\_Anderson\_Art/home.html  For a full list of Helen Ward’s books http://www.templarco.co.uk/picture\_books/helen\_ward/helen\_ward.html  **Information on recycling and environmental movements:**  http://kids.niehs.nih.gov/topics/reduce/  http://www.bbc.co.uk/education/clips/zqm76sg  http://www.reducereuserecycle.co.uk/greendirectory/kids\_green\_sites.php  http://www.eco-schools.org.uk/freeresources/bbcprimarylearning  **Geography** The children could conduct a local area study, including the impact of our environment on an individual or group and vice versa  **DT**  The children can design and make shadow puppets and theatres  The children can design and make their own ‘tin forests’  **Information on puppet shows and theatre:**  http://www.bbc.co.uk/education/clips/z23hfg8  http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p0114p6j  http://www.bbc.co.uk/education/clips/zkqw2hv  <https://littleangeltheatre.com/creativelearning/schools-and-teachers/links-resources/>  **An example of the Tin Forest brought to life as a puppet show:** https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yMC4qWFyt9A  **Art**  The children could learn about artists, such as Henri Rousseau or Paul Gauguin. Supporting resources can be found on the following websites:  http://www.bbc.co.uk/education/clips/z34wmp3  http://www.tate.org.uk/art/artists/henri-rousseau-le-douanier-1877  http://www.tate.org.uk/download/file/fid/4651  http://www.metmuseum.org/toah/hd/gaug/hd\_gaug.htm  http://www.tate.org.uk/art/artists/paul-gauguin-1144 |