

Thursday 9th July 2020 - Day 8

LO: I can develop skills in empathy and understand different perspectives

Let's remind ourselves of this quote from Tomas' father:

"They keep to themselves, Tomas. Can't blame them really, can you? I mean, I'd keep away from humans if I was a wolf. Angry monkeys with red faces, we must look like. Always chopping and burning. Shouting. Firing guns. You know, it must be peaceful out there, away from us."

Michael Morpurgo uses the perspective of the animal to show how humans can appear to be silly.

Understanding different perspectives can help us be better people ourselves. In the story of *I Believe in Unicorns*, Tomas feels lots of empathy for the different characters in the featured stories. For example, when Tomas reads the story of The Little Match Girl, he becomes very sorry for the character and more interested in the story, forgetting about the real world. He was feeling empathy with her situation. Empathy is when you can understand how someone might be feeling, almost as if you are in their shoes yourself. In the following quote Tomas is realising how bad the girl's situation is: It was dreadfully cold, snowing, and getting dark. In this cold and darkness walked a little girl. She was cold and her feet were bare.

Task

1. Read the transcript for *The Little Match Girl* section of the production in our Year 5 folder. Underline words or phrases that make you feel empathy to the little girl.
2. Use the link below to watch a short film of Michael Morpurgo talking about his idea for *I Believe in Unicorns*. You can also read the transcript in our Year 5 folder.
<https://vimeo.com/115991267>
3. Reflecting on the true story of the librarian, think of another way in which you might tell the story. Make sure that empathy is at the heart of it. Use the first person, as Michael Morpurgo does. You might not even be a human - you could personify one of the non-human elements of the story!



You could write it...

- From the point of view of one of the books, or even one of the characters in one of the rescued books
- From the point of view of the fire
- From the point of view of the librarian

4. Plan your ideas and share this different perspective with someone at home.

#Challenge Write the story from another perspective and send this creative piece to your teacher.