

RECIPROCITY:

The social aspects of learning, 'relating'

The capacities that make up this disposition are:

Interdependence Collaboration Empathy Listening Imitation

Listening

Contributing to others' experiences by listening to them to understand what they are really saying, and putting yourself in their shoes.



How to make the most of the story;

SCHOOL FOR PIRATES

Because he only 'half listens', Callum makes a big mistake. His mistake means that he spends the day feeling rather embarrassed.

Callum hears some of the things which Mrs Blake tells the class, but he is not really listening, so the message he takes home is rather garbled. As a result he becomes the 'only pirate in school'. Miss Williams, his teacher, realises why he got the message wrong and she and his mum talk to him quite sternly about being a good listener. After his uncomfortable day Callum thinks that in the future he will remember what they tell him.



After the story

Connecting questions

- What was Callum like?
- What was the one thing that Callum was not good at?
- Why did Mrs Blake come into the classroom?
- What did some of the children do that show they were good listeners?
- What did Callum do?
- What did Callum tell his mum? Why do you think he thought this?
- Because he hadn't listened properly Callum made a mistake. What happened?
- How did Callum feel?

Transferring questions

- Are you a good listener? What makes you say that?
- Why is it important to be a good listener?
- What sort of things could happen if you're not a good listener?
- What would you tell Callum to help him be a better listener?
- What would help you to remember how to be a good listener?
- What could we put on a 'Good listeners...' poster to help us all remember what good listeners do?

SCHOOL FOR PIRATES

A story to introduce: Listening

If you met Callum I'm sure you would like him for a friend. Everyone liked Callum. Callum had lots of friends because he always got on well with people. He always made sure that no-one was left out of games in the playground and he was happy to share things with others. His teachers liked him because they saw how kind he was and because he was always interested in what was going on in school. At home he was nearly always cheerful and all the neighbours liked him because he used to give them a smile and a wave when he saw them. But... there was one thing that Callum was not very good at, and sometimes that could cause a lot of trouble! I'll tell you about something that happened because of this.

One Monday morning Mrs Blake, who was the headteacher at Callum's school, came into the classroom and asked everyone to stop what they were doing because she had something to tell them. People put down their pencils and their books, or they looked up from the carpet where they had been building or sorting; some people put their paintbrushes back in the pot so that the paint wouldn't drip – everyone looked at Mrs Blake. Everyone except Callum. Callum was in the book corner and he just went on reading his book.

"I just want to tell you about something very special that's happening tomorrow," Mrs Blake said. "We are having a party of visitors coming to look around the school. They have come a very long way, right across the world, all the way from Australia and they very much want to see what our school is like. And, they are going to make a film about our school to take back to Australia, so I'd like you all to dress up very smartly tomorrow – nice clean sweatshirts, tidy hair – you know what to do."

When it was time to go home Callum's mum was waiting outside the classroom door as usual. On the way home they always talked about what they had been doing and Callum's mum always asked Callum if there were any messages.

"Yes," said Callum, "Um, Mrs Blake came in."

"Yes," said mum, "and what did she say?"

"Well, um, oh! I remember. She said some visitors are coming tomorrow. Yes, that's it. Some visitors are coming tomorrow and we're having a party and we have to dress up. Can I wear my pirate costume?"

"That sounds exciting," said mum, "a fancy dress party. Yes, I think your pirate costume will be very good."

Next morning, in their houses, Callum's friends were putting on nice clean sweatshirts and tidy trousers or



skirts. Some of the girls were putting pretty ribbons in their hair and mums and dads were making sure their shoes were nice and clean. They wanted their boys and girls to look smart in the film, especially as it was going all the way to Australia.

But Callum wasn't putting on his sweatshirt. Callum had long socks that came up to his knees and some black trousers that fastened at the top of his socks with a big button. He had a white shirt with long sleeves and a black waistcoat to go on top of it. There was a special eye patch, fixed to elastic which he covered over one eye and there was a big silver buckle to stick on to each of his shoes. He had a silver coloured plastic sword and, best of all, a big black pirate's hat with a skull and crossbones in the middle.

"You look great," said his mum, and Callum thought so too.

So they set off for school. To-day they had to go in the car because mum was going to work after she dropped him off. Callum liked his mum to drop him off at the gate and she watched him walk across the playground before she set off again for work.

The first thing that Callum noticed was that everyone he saw was dressed in their ordinary school clothes. "Perhaps they've got their dressing up things in a bag," he thought. But they hadn't.

"Why are you wearing your pirate outfit?" one of the girls asked him.

"What are you dressed up for?" someone else asked.

Callum was beginning to feel a bit puzzled and couldn't think what to say. Just then the bell rang and everyone started to walk to their classrooms. Callum's friends had joined him and they were all asking why he was dressed like a pirate. Now Callum was feeling very uncomfortable. Everyone was looking at him. He walked into the classroom and Miss Williams, his teacher, looked very surprised.

"That's a very nice pirate outfit Callum," she said, "but I'm not sure that it's what you should have been wearing today."

"But Mrs Blake said we had to," Callum said. "She said it was a party and we had to dress up."

Miss Williams looked very puzzled. "I don't remember her saying that. She said we had a ..." then she stopped, "Oh Callum, I don't think you were listening properly. Mrs Blake said we had a party of visitors – that means a group of visitors, and she said that you should all dress up smartly. She told everyone to make sure they had clean sweatshirts, tidy hair, all those kind of things. She didn't say anything about fancy dress."

Callum looked rather sorry for himself, and he felt a bit silly.

"It's a good pirate outfit though, isn't it Miss Williams?" Callum's friend Josh said.

"It's a very nice outfit," said Miss Williams, "but I don't know what our visitors will think about it. They'll wonder what kind of a strange school uniform it is!"

Everybody laughed, but they weren't laughing at Callum and he began to cheer up a bit.

"If you take the eye patch and the hat off it won't look quite so strange," said Miss Williams. And Callum took off the buckles from his shoes and put all the things, with his sword, in the cupboard until it was time to go home.

When the visitors came to Callum's class they spent a lot of time talking to the children and it wasn't long before someone told them about Callum's mistake.

"Hey," one of the visitors said, "I'd like to see that pirate outfit young man. Would you let him put it all on again please Miss Williams?"

Miss Williams helped Callum get the things out of the cupboard and Callum put them on again. The visitor made sure that Callum was in the film, dressed as a pirate. Miss Williams thought that the people back in Australia would think it was a very strange school uniform!

That afternoon, when Callum's mum came to meet him, she could see straightaway that something had gone wrong. She couldn't see anyone else in fancy dress. She went to speak to Miss Williams. Miss Williams explained what had happened.

"I really don't think Callum was listening. He heard some of the things Mrs Blake had said but if he had been listening properly he would have understood exactly what she was saying. I hope this will remind him to be a good listener in the future".

All the way home mum talked about how important it was to be a good listener, but Callum was quite sure he'd try very hard not to be a poor listener again. He'd felt rather silly being the only pirate in school!