

## The Magic Finger Create a Character



### Overview

#### Learning objective

- To use imaginative and empathetic skills.

#### Learning outcome

- To create and explore how a new character would respond to an absurd situation.

#### Book reference

- *The Magic Finger*.

#### Cross-curricular link

- Literacy, Drama, Religious Studies, History.

#### Resources

- Pictures of unusual animals or objects.



### Starter

- Ask the children to recap the funny things that happen when the Greggs have to behave like ducks, using these questions:
  - What do they have to do?
  - What do they enjoy and what do they not enjoy?
  - What are the advantages and disadvantages of being a duck?
- Rank the following from the greatest advantage to the greatest disadvantage:
  - Learn to fly in the air.
  - Learn to build a nest.
  - Carry sticks in mouths.
  - Eat worms.
  - Sleep in a nest through a storm.
  - Risk being shot at.

## The Magic Finger - Create a Character cont.

### Main teaching activity

- Give the children this scenario: You have been turned into an animal or thing and have to live like that animal or thing.
- Ask for some examples and write them on the board (for example: a polar bear, an ant, an octopus, a tree).
- Use example pictures of unusual animals or objects in order to kickstart ideas.

### Group or independent activity



- In groups of 4, the children decide upon an animal or thing.
- Groups write a list of possible scenarios/problems a person would encounter if they were turned into that animal or thing.
- Groups discuss what they would do if they encountered those problems.
- Groups discuss what might be the advantages and disadvantages of becoming their chosen animal or thing.
- The class comes back together and each group explains the problem.

### Plenary

- One child from each group takes a turn to come and sit in the hotseat.
- The rest of the class ask questions to the hotseated character. For example:
  - What did you turn into?
  - What was the main problem of being a...?
  - How did you overcome the problem?
- What was the best thing about being turned into a ...?
- What is the advantage of being turned into a...?
- What did you miss the most?
- What will you do differently when you become human again?

### Other activities

- Produce a role play of the chosen story in groups.
- Make a storyboard of the story.
- Make a film of the story.
- Make a movie poster or front cover of the story.
- Write a story using the first person singular – about how it felt to be turned into the animal or thing.

