

A Story for Holocaust Memorial Day

The focus of this story is on the experience of one Jewish child, (Lord) Alf Dubs fleeing Nazi-occupied Prague at the start of World War II.

Themes include: war, conflict, change, discrimination, peace, hope, love, care, justice, politics

Opening words

Are you ready for a story? *(from now on look at the story materials)*

Now we have time and space to breathe.

Let's turn this upside down.

(after everything is out of the box unroll the cloth)

Your story, my story, our story, Let's be curious about this story.



Words	Actions (storyteller's perspective)
	<p>Place down a river to your left and to your right (running East-West and one third of the way down from you). Place down two leaf shapes to make 2 trees by each river.</p> <p>Create a tall building between the 2 rivers using 2 blocks on their sides (1.5cm x 7.5cm) end to end as each wall and a roof with 2 blocks. Then create another tall house to you right and to your left - sharing the dividing walls. Place 3 discs in the house in the middle, 2 discs in the house on your right, 2 discs in the house on your left.</p>
<p>There is a land of rivers and forests. In the centre of this land lies the beautiful city of Prague</p>	<p>Look at the beautiful scene you have made</p>
<p>where a six year old boy named Alf lived with his family</p>	<p>Place Alf and his mother in the house on your right. Pause. Place 3 people in the house in the middle on your left, and 2 in the house on your left.</p>
<p>On 15th of March 1939 the Nazi army poured into the land.</p>	<p>Show the presence of the soldiers with your hands moving in from the sides and then hold them above the city.</p>
<p>Suddenly everything had changed. There were Nazi soldiers everywhere. Even the picture of the president had to be torn from Alf's schoolbooks, to be replaced with a picture of Hitler.</p>	<p>When you say 'everywhere' look at the buildings. When you say 'Even the picture...' look at Alf.</p>
<p>The Nazis did not like anyone who was not like them, especially the Jewish people. They took everything that the Jewish people had, even their homes.</p>	<p>Move the three people out of the middle home and put them in front of the house.</p>
	<p>Form a train on your left. Start half way down and one third of the way from the left edge. Place 5 grey blobs down straight across and overlapping each other so they reach the edge of the circle.</p>
<p>The Jewish people were put on trains, and sent to concentration camps. Many people died.</p>	<p>Place the 3 people who were evicted from their home onto the grey blobs (which is going east). When you say 'died', hold the people, one at a time in your palms, and place them back in the basket.</p>

The Children's Train

Words	Actions (storyteller's perspective)
	<i>Form a train on your right. Start half way down and one third of the way from the right edge. Place 5 grey blobs down straight across and overlapping each other so they reach the edge of the circle.</i>
But Alf was taken by his mother and put on a different kind of train, one that would take him to safety, hundreds of miles away.	<i>Bring Alf and his mother to the train. Place Alf in the train going west.</i>
Alf's mother had given him a knapsack of food	<i>Hold the felt heart in the palms of your hands like a gift before you lean it up against Alf.</i>
but he felt confused and overwhelmed and could hardly eat anything.	
Finally, the train arrived in London. He was safe.	<i>Put Alf in front of the train. Place the knapsack next to Alf.</i>
Alf was one of nearly 10,000 children rescued on the 'Kindertransport' or children's train, finding safety and a future in a foreign land.	
Alf stayed in the UK. He became a politician.	<i>Move Alf across to the centre.</i>
He campaigned to improve the care we give to refugees - people like him who are forced to leave their homes and their country.	<i>Pick up and hold the heart in the palms of your hands - like a gift - as you say 'campaigned'.</i>
Alf is now 89 years old and is still doing this work today.	<i>Place the heart in front of Alf.</i>

Wondering *(You are now engaging with the circle so look up)*

Let's be curious about how we feel.

I wonder what part of this story you like?

I wonder what part you don't like?

I wonder what the story reminds you of?

Closing words

For all that's been said and for all that's not been said - thank you.

(At the end put the objects from the story carefully away in reverse order).

The session could end here, but if you have time you could offer other ways to respond further to the story.

Ideas for further reflection: Playing with the story materials, writing, building, painting.

Materials for those not using OutoftheBox resources.

If you do not have the OutoftheBox resources you will need: an underlay on which to tell the story or a sandbag, seven wooden people and something for them to stand on, representation of houses and trains and a heart/knapsack.

Further resources can be found here (including more on Alf's story): Holocaust Educational Trust

www.het.org.uk/education Holocaust memorial Day Trust www.hmd.org.uk/, Centre for Holocaust Education <https://holocausteducation.org.uk/>.

Further resources and scripted stories to explore the theme of refugee support

Please go to www.outoftheboxtraining.org/blog/world-refugee-day to find:

1. Videos of this story told on cloth and on sand with OutoftheBox resources - and outside with found 'loose parts'

2. Other OutoftheBox stories to explore World Refugee Day.

Beautiful Things imagines the experience of someone making the difficult choice of what to take and what to leave behind when forced to flee.

Psalm 23 takes a different approach to the topic from the perspective of Christian spirituality.

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