

Simple Acts for Refugee Week



Type of activity: Singing and learning words from another language

Who is it for? All the family

What do I need?

- Your voice! A good memory, ears and listening skills.
- Access to the Internet.

Introduction

What does 'refugee' mean? One definition is that it is a person who has been forced to leave their country in order to escape war, persecution, or natural disaster. This week is UK's largest festival celebrating the contribution made by refugees and helping us understand why people flee their own countries to seek a place of safety. Unfortunately, there are wars in many parts of the world, or places where people are not allowed to follow their own religion and they have to escape for their own safety.

For Refugee Week we're being invited to do one or more of eight Simple Acts that can all be done at home. You can find out about them here <https://refugeeweek.org.uk/simple-acts/>

Simple Acts are everyday actions we can all do to stand with refugees and make new connections in our communities. The Simple Acts you do mean you'll be joining a big, creative, collective movement to imagine a better world. One of the Simple Acts is to sing a song!

Here's how to ...

Watch the video, where Emmanuela teaches us her favourite song of peace from the Democratic Republic of Congo. Think about these questions: why did Emmanuela have to leave her home? How many languages can she speak? How many languages have you tried once you have learned this song? <https://www.musicaction.org/downloads/amani-full-track/>

What now?

Read this poem by 14-year-old Zimbabwean Rubimbo Bungwe

Refugee

So I have a new name – refugee.
Strange that a name should take away from me
My past, personality and hope.
Strange refuge this.
So many seem to share this name – refugee
Yet we share so many differences
I find no comfort in my new name.
I long to share my past, restore my pride,

To show, I too, in time, will offer more
Than I have borrowed.
For now the comfort that I seek
Resides in the old yet new name I would choose – friend.
Reproduced from 'Global communities: Learning about Refugee Issues

After reading the poem, think about these questions or talk with an adult:

- What does Rumbimbo think about the label given to her?
- What could people do differently to help her feel at home?

Now think about yourself:

- What does your name mean to you?
- Have you ever chosen to be called something different? (eg a shortened name or even a nickname)
- Have other people ever labelled you instead of using your name?
- If yes, why do you think that they did it? How did it make you feel?

And to finish, some detective work...

Can you find out about some famous refugees in the UK and how they have contributed to our society through their lives and work?

Here are a few for a start:

- Lord Alf Dubs (when not working in London, he lives in Cumbria)
- Rita Ora
- Albert Einstein.

Do you know what they are famous for?

