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# Key Stage 1

## Lesson 3

### Learning Objective:

Use drama to explore some of the problems that children face going to school in rural Kenya and Uganda

### National Curriculum links:

Geography (PoS 1a, 1c, 2d, 3d)  
English (drama, speaking and listening)  
PSHE (4c)

### Resources:

- A day in the life of Irine and Clapton
- Irine and Clapton photocards
- Around the school photocards

### Starter:

Sit in a circle and tell the story 'A day in the life of Irine and Clapton'. Show the photographs of Irine and Clapton. At points indicated within the story ask children to step into the circle and make the relevant actions in role. See story for discussion points.

### Main Activity:

This may work best in small mixed ability groups.

- Explain that you are going to find out how your school compares to a school in rural Africa. Use the 'Around the school' photocards to take the children around the school and look at how your building compares to the African school:
- Show photocard 1: Key Question: What can you see in this picture? Focus on the blackboard. Key Question: what do we use instead of a blackboard? As a group go and find a whiteboard or IWB.
- Show photocard 2: Key Question: What do you think this person is doing? Explain that they are cooking over a fire. Key Question: Which room might this be? Establish it is the kitchen and go and find your school kitchen. Discuss how they compare.
- Take the children outside your school toilets then show them photocard 3. Explain that these are the toilets and that they are a hole in the ground. Key Question: Can you see any taps in the photo? Explain that some schools don't have any water. Remind the children how important it is to wash their hands after the toilet to stop spreading germs.

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- Go to a KS1 classroom and show photocard 4. Key Question: Where do some of the younger children have their classrooms? Discuss what it would be like having your classroom outside all of the time.
- Show photocard 5. Key Question: Where in the school do you think this is? Establish it is the playground. Go to your playground and discuss the similarities and differences.
- Go to a KS2 classroom and show photocard 6. Key Question: What do the older children have sometimes in their classrooms? How does it compare to our classrooms? Look at the walls as well as the furniture.

## Plenary:

- Ask the children to draw on what they have learnt from both the 'Day in the life of Irine and Clapton' and the tour around the school.
- - Key Question: What similarities are there between your life and the life of a child in parts of Kenya or Uganda? What are the differences? What problems do the children face in the school day?
    - Remind the class how the children were tired from their early morning chores and no lunch; how the rain went through their classroom and how not all children are able to school at all.
  - Key Question: What similarities are there between our school building and some schools in Uganda and Kenya? What are the differences?
    - Remind the class how some classrooms are outside and might not have walls, tables or chairs; use blackboards; very few pictures or posters on the walls; toilets and kitchen are very different.

- **“Hello my name is Irine and I am 9 years old. I live with my four sisters, one brother, my mother and my father.”** (*KQ how many children live in Irine’s house? Ask 8 children to come and sit in the circle to act as each person.*)
- **“This is my house it has just one room”** (show photocard of hut. *KQ Can you imagine all those people living in that small house?*) **“My house has mud walls and a grass thatched roof.”**
- **“We also have a pet dog called Kwiss who lives in his own house outside ours.”** (Ask a child to come into the circle to act as the guard dog outside the house. *KQ Does anyone have a dog? Point out this similarity between pets.*)
- *Ask children to sit back in circle apart from Irine.*
- **“This is my friend Clapton.”** (Ask child to come and act as Clapton.)
- **“Hello my name is Clapton and I am 10 years old. I live with my 3 brothers and 2 sisters and my mother.”** (*KQ who has the greater number of people in their family? Irine or Clapton? Ask 7 children to come and represent Clapton’s family.*)
- **“My house is made from bricks with an iron roof, it has four rooms. We also have pets but we have chickens and goats.”** (*KQ Does anyone have chickens or goats at home? Why might they keep these animals as pets? Explain they can provide eggs, milk and meat.*)
- Irine: **“We both go to the same primary school. Before I go to school in the morning I help my mum and sisters to cook breakfast. We make millet porridge in a big pot, it’s my job to stir it.”** (Ask 2 children to come and act with Irine, sitting on the floor and stirring the pot). **“After the family has had breakfast I help to wash the pans.”** (Ask Irine to mime scrubbing the pans *KQ Does anyone help at home with the washing up or loading the dishwasher?*)
- Clapton: **“My job before school is to fetch water from the river, it is a long walk. I have to carry the water back in a heavy plastic container which I balance on my head. Sometimes it hurts my neck and back but it makes me strong. By the time I need to go to school, I already feel quite tired.”** (show photocard. Ask Clapton to mime scooping up water and balancing it on his head.)
- Irine: **“I feel very happy and proud when I put on my school uniform because not everyone is able to go to school, especially if they are a girl. Some families are very poor and can’t afford the books and uniforms. They also need their children to stay at home to work. But I love the colour of my school shirt, it is pink!”** (Irine mimes putting on shirt.)
- Clapton: **“We both walk to school, no one in our village has a car, it takes us about 40 minutes.”** (mime the children walking to school.)
- Irine: **“This is a picture of my classroom. We do not have enough chairs or tables. When it is sunny it gets very hot as we are all so close together but at least the grass roof gives us some shade.”** (Ask Irine to sit down as if in classroom.)
- Clapton: **“But there are no walls. There are more holes in the thatch roof too! What do think happens during the rainy season?”** (Discuss how difficult it must be concentrating on your lessons when you are getting soaking wet or are very hot.)

- Irine: **"My favourite lesson is maths, I like counting and adding."** (Discuss the similarity with children's own lessons.)
- Clapton: **"At play time I like playing football with my friends"** (Ask child to pick two friends and mime playing football. *KQ Do you like playing football at playtime?* Reinforce this similarity.)
- Irine: **"At play time I like to play netball with my friends."** (Ask child to pick two friends and mime netball. *KQ Do you like skipping at netball?* Reinforce this similarity.)
- Clapton: **"At lunchtime we don't always have food. We don't bring a packed lunch to school and the school cannot always provide us with any lunch. So we all stay hungry."** (Discuss how hungry the children are by lunchtime and how hungry Clapton and Irine must be by the time school finishes. Reinforce the importance of healthy eating and how this helps you to concentrate and give you energy.)
- Irine: **"School finishes at 4:30 pm when we walk home again. I see rabbits and sometimes wild pigs on the way home!"** (*KQ which of these animals might you see on your way to school?*)
- Clapton: **"When I get home I have to tie up all the goats."** (Ask children to act as goats and Clapton to mime catching them and tying them up).
- Irine: **"My job is to wash the clothes but first I must collect some more water from the river."** (Ask Irine to mime water collection as before. Discuss the amount of time taken each day to collect water. *KQ can you think of all the things we use water for in a day? Can you imagine not being able to just turn on a tap to get your water?* Ask Irine to mime scrubbing the clothes and laying them out on the floor to dry in the sun.)
- Clapton: **"I help my mum to cook dinner over the fire, we eat posho which is like thick porridge but made out of maize, we stir it with a big stick which we call a "mingling stick." Tonight we are going to eat it with steamed matoke which is a savoury banana."** (Mime lighting the fire and stirring the pot with a mingling stick then eating off a plate with your fingers.)
- Irine: **"We both lie down on the floor of our house to go to sleep at about 8pm."** (Mime lying down to go to sleep. *KQ Do you lie on the floor? What time do you go to bed?* Highlight these similarities and differences.)

*KQ = key questions to ask children through the story*



Irine



Clapton



Irine's home



Collecting water



Irine's classroom



Photocard 1



Photocard 2



Photocard 3



Photocard 4



Photocard 5



Photocard 6



A rainy day



New classroom being built



Clapton and his friends