

## 37. Come and join us

### Background information for teachers

The pupils will hear the story of *Frog and the Stranger* by Max Velthuis. This story explores the idea of offering a welcome to those who come to join the communities of which we are a part. It also explores the theme of prejudice and rejection of those who are different, and the recognition that difference can be a positive thing. It deals with the way in which human beings can stereotype groups in a negative way and positively reflects on the way in which those who have different backgrounds can contribute.

### Resources

- Storybook as above
- Soft toy frog, pig, duck and rat
- A *Welcome Book* in which to stick pictures/information for newcomers to the class
- Pens, crayons, glue
- Photos or posters of refugees
- A template for each pupil to fill in giving details about themselves
- Words from Hebrews 13:2, "Be sure to welcome strangers. By doing this, some people have welcomed angels without even knowing it".

### Introduce to the pupils by . . .

- Reading the story and talking about the reactions of Frog, Pig and Duck to the arrival of Rat, and the character of Rat.
- Discussing the similarities and differences between pupils in the class, noting how the differences can make for a more stimulating community.
- Talking about ideas of how to welcome newcomers into school, e.g., welcome cards, photo album of pupils in class, letter explaining class rules, a gift parcel

with new a pencil and rubber, a template for the new pupil to fill in:  
 . . . my name is . . . I like to eat  
 . . . I like to do . . . I live with  
 . . . I have come from  
 . . . at home I speak . . . *language*).

- Telling the pupils that in this corner they will have the opportunity to create a *Welcome Book* for someone new to the class.



### What will the pupils do?

- Fill out one of the templates each and stick on one side of a double page of the *Welcome Book*. On the other side draw or stick anything else that identifies who they are and their likes and interests, e.g., photo of self, picture of family or interests, etc.

### Summarise

- Make reference to the words from the Bible book of Hebrews (see above) and ask the pupils how Rat could be described as an angel.
- Look at the *Welcome Book* together.

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join us**

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...s gave up on refugees



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