



Class Activity to Accompany Thabte's Story

Learning Objectives:

- To help pupils understand the situation for many children in different African countries, especially in relation to poverty.
- To raise awareness of the importance of education as a means of reducing poverty globally.

You will need:

- Access to the internet (optional):
http://www.oxfam.org.uk/coolplanet/beyondwave/daytwo_am.htm
Oxfam has a nice site with a number of flexible pre-prepared lesson plans providing background information and activities on education and poverty that could be used in conjunction with this activity.
- Copies of "Thabte's Story" (one copy for each group).
- Copies of the "Going to school leads to literacy, good health and well-being" sheet cut up (one copy for each group).

Instructions:

Preparatory Activities for Instructor:

- Do the suggested activities from the Oxfam website (optional).
- Read "Thabte's Story" and focus on Education as a Right. (See the Oxfam "Why can't some children go to school?" activity)

Why Education is Important:

- Divide the class into groups of three or four and ask them to think about why education is important.
- Ask the groups to feedback and give their reasons (note responses on a flipchart).

Why it is Important to Go to School:

Part1:

- Now give each group a copy of the "Going to school leads to literacy, good health and well-being."
- Ask the groups to prioritize the statements in terms of most important (at the top) and least important (at the bottom).
- Ask each group to feedback their most and least important reasons.
- Discuss similarities and differences in responses.

Part2:

- Give each group copies of "Thabte's Story" to read and ask them to discuss the following questions:
 - Why is education important to Thabte?
 - What difference will it make to her life?
- Ask each group to feedback to the whole class (note responses on a flipchart).
- Compare the reasons that the class suggested and those from the story. Which are similar? Which are different? Why?

Going to School Leads to Literacy, Good Health and Well-Being Because You Are Able...

To learn to read and write	To develop as a citizen and take part in your community and nation
To learn about the world around me	To develop thinking skills and recognize bias: for example the difference between fact and opinion
To know and understand something about other places and our links to them	To learn what is fair/unfair and what is considered as right/wrong and act accordingly
To learn about my rights and responsibilities and those of other people	To gain knowledge and learn respect for other peoples and cultures
To make friends and learn how to live and work with other people	To be able to make the most of development opportunities– personal, economic or social
To make a better life for myself, my family, my community and the world	To break the link between poverty, ignorance and ill-health
To understand what poverty is, why some people are poor and to take action to help	To develop talents and skills and enjoy art, music, stories, poetry, dance, etc.