



Teacher's Notes

This story can be used as a stimulus for cross-curricular learning across PSE, Literacy, Art & Design, Music and Drama. There are some points detailed below which you may wish to use to devise a lesson plan or facilitate a discussion about the story of Pod.

PSE

The story of Pod has a powerful anti-bullying message. You may wish to incorporate this into PSE lessons that focus on anti-bullying. Alternatively, the story may be used in assemblies to encourage children to think about the underlying moral values associated with anti-bullying, forgiveness, and helping a friend in need. The complexity of the discussion can be adapted, depending on the age of the children. Possible discussion starter points include:

- Who is the hero character of the story?
- How would you react to the witch and the wizard?
- How do you think the turtle felt when the wizard physically hurt him?
- How did Pod help the turtle?
- How do you think the mean words spoken by the witch, made the baby chick feel?
- How did Pod make the chick feel better again?
- The witch and wizard tricked Pod and made him drink the poisonous potion. Pod decided to forgive them, and give them another chance. Discuss the importance of forgiveness, and giving someone a second chance.
- Towards the end of the story, the witch and the wizard seemed to see the error of their ways. Do you think that Pod was right to save them?
- At the end of the story, Pod is gone from Tanglewood. Why do you think he has left? Where do you think he might be going?
- What have you learned from this story about how to treat people around you?
- Spread the anti-bullying message further by uploading the children's work onto the school blog, social media, local media etc. will help to spread this message within your local community and beyond
- Our Pod team can assist with and demonstrate how to implement this social media networking within your school, which will allow the anti-bullying message to have a strong impact in your local school community

Literacy

- Create your own rhyming poem about the adventures of Pod, the witch, wizard, turtle and swan
- Use adjectives to describe each of the characters
- Use adjectives to describe the setting of Tanglewood
- Group discussion: What might be Pod's next rescue mission? As a group, take it in turns to contribute a sentence and write a story together about Pod's next adventure.
- Discuss the use of similes in the story and come up with your own similes to describe the features of Tanglewood, and each of the characters

Art and Design

- Print off sheets at www.luciaparties.com/pod, children can design their own illustrations for the story
- Make a collage (possibly using natural materials e.g. twigs, leaves). Children can work together to create a mural of Tanglewood
- Illustrate all the characters in the story – using colouring pencils/tissue paper collage/paints
- Make 3D models of each character
- Make a 3D model of Tanglewood from recycled objects – get children to bring in materials
- Design a 'Wanted' poster for the witch and wizard

Drama

- Ask the children to take on the role of each character and act out the story
- Ask the children to swap roles e.g. from the witch to Pod – how does it feel to be each of the different characters?
- Ask the children to practice using different voices/tones for each of the different characters
- Ask the children to use different body language, gestures and physical positions to represent the different characters

Music

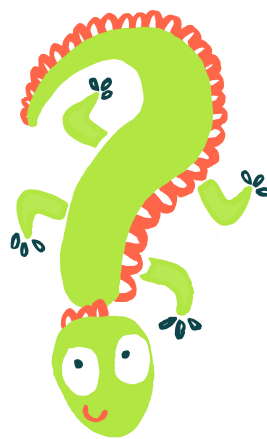
- What noises might be heard in Tanglewood? Use instruments to demonstrate
- Write a song that could be sung by each of the different characters, which describes their experiences in the story
- Ask the children to choose a sound that represents each character e.g. a tinkling bell, a loud bang of drums etc.

Growing Outdoors

Another aspect of Pod that relates to the school curriculum is that the story can be used to encourage children to take an interest in gardening, the school garden, our local community and the environment. Your school may already have a gardening club, which could incorporate Pod. Alternatively, it could be linked by encouraging the children to plant seeds, and discover more about the trees and plants in our everyday environment, like those in Tanglewood. This encourages children to plant seedlings, nurture them, monitor and protect them, and maintain an outdoor space for learning. The story is set in Tanglewood, and this provides a great opportunity for children to explore their local community and school environment through Growing Outdoors. We are liaising with Mandy Morrison (Director of Growing Outdoors), and the RHS, regarding how best to implement this in your school.

About me

My name is Olivia Booth, I am in the final year of my Psychology degree at the University of Manchester and I will be starting a primary PGCE in 2015. A major component of my course was based around developmental child psychology – I found this to be of particular interest. In addition, my dissertation involves studying parent-child interactions, and language comprehension in young children. I am working in association with luciaparties.com as I have assisted Lucia with children's parties since 2012. If you have any questions or feedback I would love to hear from you, and I would love to see some of the children's great ideas. Please contact me at: orbooth@hotmail.co.uk



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