

Writing worksheet one

This worksheet has been created to go with the first video by Tom Palmer. Part of our Holocaust Memorial Day activities for 2022. Please watch the video and use the worksheet to help you complete the first writing exercise.

Imagine that a group of children who have survived a war come to live in your town or to be students at your school. They are refugees.

We'd like you to make a list of the sort of reactions you and other people might have to that happening. Think if you have heard opinions where you live or online, on the TV, or in books. Maybe talk about it as a class before you start. Then you can think up more ideas.

Remember how the two main characters in the first chapter of *Them* had different attitudes to the children coming to Windermere.

Remember these are not your own opinions, but a variety of opinions.

Can you think of five things people might think or say?

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

To link back to our Holocaust Memorial Day resources, please visit

literacytrust.org.uk/holocaust-memorial-day.

Writing worksheet two

This worksheet has been created to go with the second video by Tom Palmer. Part of our Holocaust Memorial Day activities for 2022. Please watch the video and use the worksheet to help you complete the second writing exercise.

In chapter two of *Them*, John feels angered by the 300 children coming from abroad to live where he lives. We'd like you to put yourself in his mind. He is threatened by the children coming. But why?

What are his objections?

What does he think he might not get enough of?

What does he think the newcomers might do?

Working out how someone is thinking is a great way of making a character believable. Remember, this is not you writing your opinions, but you trying to think how a character like John – someone from today, even – thinks.

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Writing worksheet three

This worksheet has been created to go with the third video by Tom Palmer. Part of our Holocaust Memorial Day activities for 2022. Please watch the video and use the worksheet to help you complete the third writing exercise.

In chapter three of *Them*, the 'you' character notices how the children who have come to live on her estate react when they are scared or upset. When fireworks go off. When they see one of the children feeling sad about their family. Their reactions should make the reader of the story think more kindly towards them.

We'd like you to think from the point of view of the 'you' character. How does she feel about the children now? And why has what she has witnessed changed her mind? Tell us here:

Can you think of how you would feel if someone coming to your town displayed sadness or fear? Write down how you would react if you saw someone you didn't know displaying one of these behaviours:

Sadness: _____

Fear: _____

Confusion: _____

When we write a story it is good to show people seeing things and maybe changing their minds about what they think about other people.

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Writing worksheet four

This worksheet has been created to go with the fourth video by Tom Palmer. Part of our Holocaust Memorial Day activities for 2022. Please watch the video and use the worksheet to help you complete the fourth writing exercise.

In chapter four of *Them*, we see how different ideas can clash against each other. If someone wants to help refugees – from today or years ago – but their brother is hostile, how is that going to play out?

Try out some of the ideas you had for what John thinks and what the ‘you’ character thinks in the previous worksheets. Then – in the box opposite – write what the other character would say back in an argument. We have provided two ideas and two arguments against as examples.

Idea	Argument against
<i>We should welcome refugees and share our food with them.</i>	<i>We don't have enough food of our own. We're hungry too.</i>
<i>People should eat nicely at the table.</i>	<i>We don't know how easy it was for them to get food before.</i>

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Writing worksheet five

This worksheet has been created to go with the fifth and final video by Tom Palmer. Part of our Holocaust Memorial Day activities for 2022. Please watch the video and use the worksheet to help you complete the fifth writing exercise.

Having completed the first four worksheets, you should now have two characters' views about what they think when refugees come to a town following a genocide.

We would like you to use these notes to create a piece of writing. It can be whatever you want it to be.

A play where your two characters argue about their different opinions.

Two poems, one from each character's point of view.

A debate, where you and another classmate take a view each and argue against each other's opinions.

A story where – like Tom Palmer – you tell a story to try and compare the two views.

Choose what works for you. And have a go at writing something where two people have such different responses to events in their home town.

Your piece of writing could be chosen to be published online. Ask your teacher about this.

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