

# English and Literacy: Children's rights

## Lesson plan 4: Exploring rights

**Age group: 8-10**

### Resources:

You will need:

- the **worksheet: Charles's story (It's Our Right)** (below);
- the **worksheet: Children's rights (It's Our Right)** (below);
- the **worksheet: Charles's rights (It's Our Right)** (below);
- 14 pieces of sugar paper from the lesson 'Expanded paragraphs';
- glue and scissors.

### Introduction and whole-class activity:

Read the text from the **worksheet Charles's story** (below).

1. What are the important things Charles has to think about in his everyday life?
2. How do these compare with what we have to consider?
3. How does Charles deal with things that we take for granted such as food, shelter, and education?

Give out the 14 pieces of sugar paper to pupils in the class. Which of these rights does Charles have? (Get the pupils to hold high the rights he has and lower those he doesn't have.) Should he be entitled to these rights?

### Group activity:

Give out the two worksheets **Children's rights** (below) and **Charles's rights** (below). Ask the pupils to cut and stick the rights from the first worksheet into the appropriate section on the second worksheet under the following headings.

- Yes, Charles has these rights.
- No, Charles does not have these rights.
- I'm not sure.

### Plenary:

Share the pupils' results. Go through the worksheets and discuss the following questions:

- What rights does Charles have?
- What rights should Charles have?
- What are the things Charles likes about his life?
- What does he want to do in the future?
- What things make life difficult for Charles?
- Which Children's Rights does Uganda appear to support?
- Which Children's Rights do the pupils think the UK supports?

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## Worksheet: Charles's story

Hi! My name is Charles Senyange and I am 12, nearly 13. I live with about twenty other boys in an old wagon in the railway yard in Kampala, a city in Uganda. I have to live there because my parents were killed by soldiers three years ago and I ran away and hid here.

We sleep on the floor of the wagon on newspapers, but I also have some empty cardboard boxes and a bed sheet which I have to keep hidden in a safe place during the day or they would be stolen.

I do have a very good friend and we help to look after each other. His name is Musa Umani and we keep each other warm at night when it gets very cold in the wagon.

In the morning I usually go straight to the city market about 10 minutes walk away. It is here that all the lorries arrive with loads of goods to sell. I often pick up loose bananas from the floor where they have fallen and sell them. Sometimes I sell soap which I buy cheaply from one of the lorry drivers.

For my breakfast, which I buy from the hot food stalls in the market, I have black coffee with sugar, and some cassava with beans. For lunch I may have matoke and rice. When I have earned a lot I may buy some meat.

I have one pair of shorts and one shirt which I wash once a week in the river with a bit of soap. I also have a pair of shoes - I found them on the rubbish pile.

The police don't like boys like me working in the market. They think we're going to make trouble. Sometimes they come and chase us away so we have to be on the lookout for them. If they catch us they sometimes take us to the police station and beat us, or they may send us to Naguru, a boys' home. I don't like Naguru because we are treated just like prisoners; we can't walk or go out, and besides, I don't like the food there.

I like my life in the wagon and working in the market - it's a lot better than going to school. I went to school when I was younger and that's where I learnt to speak English.

When I get older I hope to have my own stall at the market and make enough money to rent a house.

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## Worksheet: Children's rights

All children have rights	All children have the right to be taken care of by parents or family members
All children have the right to be protected	All children have the right to be given help and protection if they have no family or parents
All children have the right to a name	All children have the right to be helped if someone is being cruel or violent towards them
All children have the right to a home	All children have the right to education and to play
All children have the right to medicine if they are sick	All children have the right to follow their own religion and not suffer from racial abuse
All children have the right to be looked after	

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## Worksheet: Charles's rights

Yes, Charles has these rights	No, Charles does not have these rights