

Sir Nicholas Winton

The suggestions here are for some elements to use and / or adapt as you wish over two or more sessions.

Introduction

You could ask some of the following questions before Part 1:

- Can one person change the world? Discuss with a partner.
- How is your school community a diverse community? What benefits are there to being a group of many different individuals?
- How are people who are different from each other welcomed as part of your school community?
- How would your community change if one group were treated differently just because they were different?
- What risks might you be prepared to take to stand up for someone who is being treated unfairly?
- What do you know about World War II and the Holocaust in particular?
- Are there examples like this still happening in our own time?

You could ask some of these questions before Part 2:

- Have you ever had to spend time away from your family? How did it feel? How long were you away?
- Talk together about what you think might happen next in the story of Nicholas Winton and the 'kindertransport'.
- What dangers might they and the children face?

The video

Explain that everyone is going to listen to a true story, set in the months immediately before the outbreak of World War II. It recounts the actions of Sir Nicholas Winton, who rescued 669 children from Prague (which was then the capital of Czechoslovakia) who were at immediate threat from the Nazis, by arranging for them to come to homes in Britain.

The events begin at Christmas 1938 when Nicholas Winton receives a phone call from his friend Martin Blake that will take him to Czechoslovakia and change his life. The script has been co-written by Winton's daughter, Barbara.

Questions to ask after Part 1:

- Sir Nicholas Winton was born Nicholas Wertheimer in 1909 to German Jewish parents who had moved to London. Why do you think the family changed the name to Winton?



Webpage with video

- What do you think made him so determined to help the children he saw in Prague when others chose a different path?
- Who do you identify with in the story? Why?
- Winton told no one about what he had done, not even his wife. Why do you think he did so?
- Why do you think we choose to remember the Holocaust?

After Part 2:

- How should Nicky feel at the end of the story - 'sad', 'proud', both?
- Talk about the people who helped Nicky, making 'his' story possible.
- How is Sir Nicholas Winton different to some of the other heroes / superheroes you are familiar with?

Opportunity to reflect

Think to yourself about what it means to be a hero...and what it takes to be a hero...Do heroes always have to be a certain type...eg, very courageous...? Think about what we've heard about Nicholas Winton... What qualities has he demonstrated..?

It can be easy to think that a problem is so big that there's nothing that can be done about it... Think about how you might try to show the same qualities of caring...courage...and determination.