



Classroom Activity



My Mum Tracy Beaker. Thought Tracking

Aim:

To explore how characters show empathy towards each other

Outcome:

To write about Tyrone as Jess, to write about Jess as Tyrone

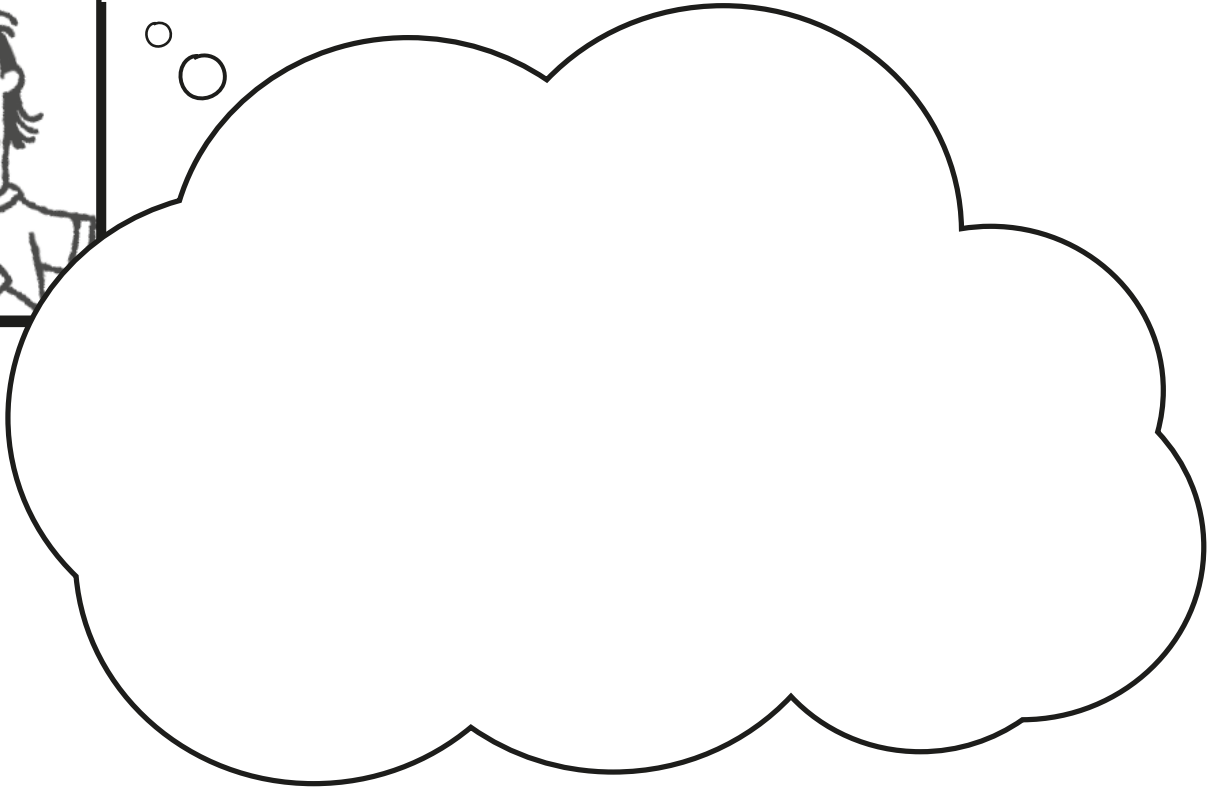
‘Sometimes characters in books are really good at being empathetic. What does that mean? It doesn’t mean just feeling sorry for them, does it, or just being kind? It means trying to see things from another person’s point of view, and working out how they are feeling and why.’

Instructions:

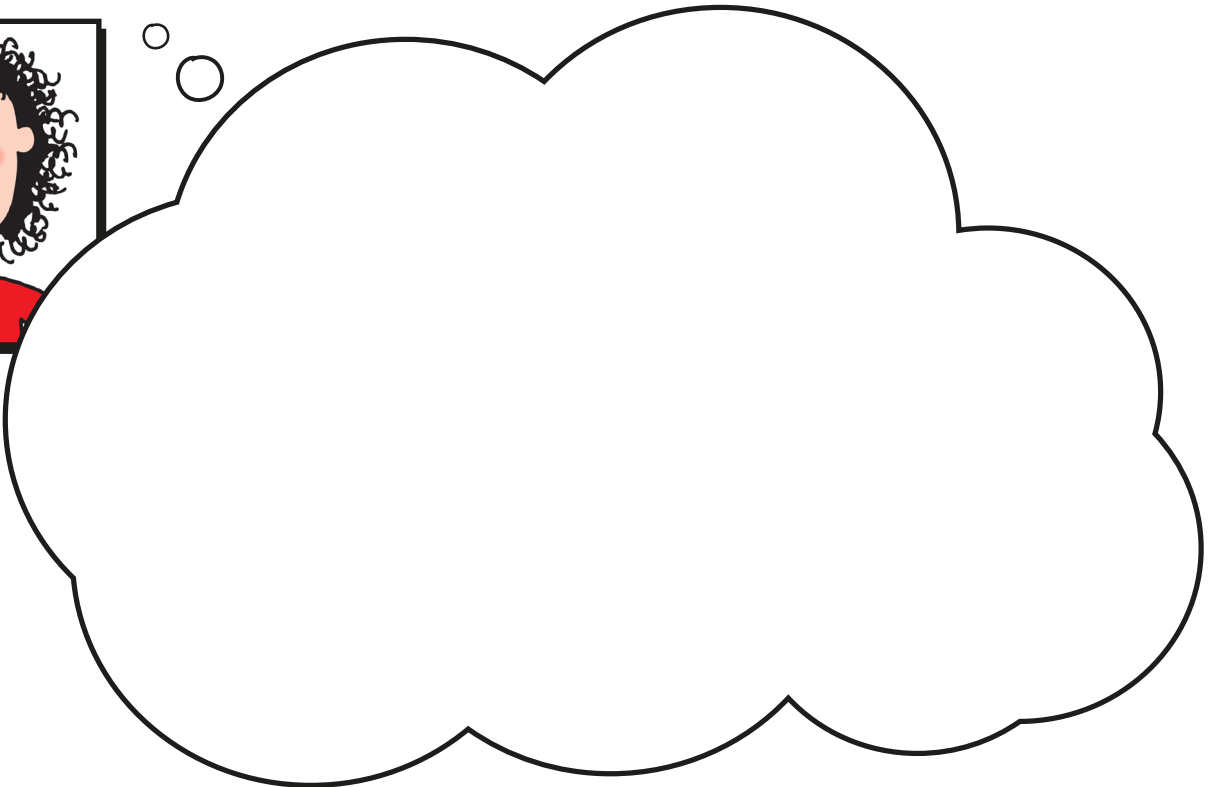
- Share the extract and explain that we are going to be Empathy Explorers. In this passage, are there any examples of the characters using empathy well? Let children read and discuss together, then share ideas.
- Explain the task. We are going to thought-track the two characters in this scene and imagine what they are thinking about the other person.
- Model thought-tracking in role as Tyrone – e.g. ‘**Jess must be excited about moving in with Sean Godfrey and leaving this dump. I bet she’s really happy to have a dog too. Why is she even bothering to come and see me? She’s not come to show off, I can tell. She must just be a really good friend.**’
- Then thought-track in role as Jess (or get a child volunteer to do it) empathizing with Tyrone – e.g. ‘**Tyrone looks really sad, sitting over there on his own. His eye look really sore too. It must be awful to be scared of your own mum. Maybe that’s why he used to beat me up: because he was angry and didn’t know how to let it out.**’
- Children then write a paragraph in role as either Jess or Tyrone, talking about the other character and how they might be feeling and why. These can be written in a speech bubble next to a picture of the character who is speaking.
- Choose a couple of children to share their writing, then ask children to vote on which character showed the most empathy in this passage and why. If either of them had been less empathetic, what might have happened instead?



Read the extract and write what you think Tyrone might be feeling . . .



Read the extract and write what you think Tracy might be feeling . . .



My Mum Tracy Beaker

Extract from pages 8-9

They couldn't do too much to me in lessons, and I hid from them in the playground. I haven't made many friends at Duke Primary, so I went to the Peace Garden to read. It's my favourite place. It's got a hedge all round it so you feel safe. There are flowers and a small fountain and a bench and a little winding brick path. Best of all, hardly anyone goes there.

But one lunchtime Tyrone came looking for me. He barged right into the Peace Garden, his mates following, and my tummy went tight, but I tried not to show I was scared. I just went on reading.

'Why do you always have your head in a book, Geeky? Hey, I'm talking to you!' said Tyrone, standing right beside me. I kept my head bent, making out I was too engrossed in my book to hear him. Then he snatched the book away, though I kept looking down, my eyes flicking from side to side as if I was reading a story written on my school skirt. That really annoyed him, so he suddenly shoved me right off the bench, onto the brick path. My glasses fell off, and I hit my head and grazed my knees. I didn't cry. I just lay there.

'It's your own fault. You shouldn't just ignore people,' said Tyrone. 'Don't make out you're hurt!'

I was hurt, but I managed not to cry. I throbbed all through afternoon lessons, and by going-home time I had a big bump on my forehead and my knees were still bleeding.