

Harriet's Story

Aim : *This simple piece emphasises the different lives people lead across the world. However, it highlights the similarities between people as well as the differences to show that, when talking about the poor and disadvantaged, we are considering people with personalities, hopes, flaws, and not just victims. This adds great pathos to the piece.*

Characters :

2 girls – although the girls are age specific in the script, we usually perform this piece with two women. Be careful not to “ham” if you’re doing this. The girls should be as natural as possible.

Props/Costumes :

No props are needed, nor is specific costume, although if the girls are in similar clothes this can add to the comparison between their lives.

Notes : *The piece is in two parts. The first part stands on its own. In fact, part two was added at a much later date as part of an evening exploring what we can do to help promote Fair Trade. It was felt that having the second part left people more positively, and with a sense that the small things they do can make a big difference. We still perform part one on its own. If you are performing both parts they have more impact when separated by a talk or other things.*

Harriet's Story

The two girls stand side by side. They address the audience throughout, rather than acknowledging one another. Their tone is conversational and should be similar to one another in emphasis

H1) My name is Harriet and I'm thirteen years old.

H2) My name is Harriet and I'm thirteen years old.

H1) I like clothes, dancing (*smiles*) and boys

H2) I like clothes, dancing (*smiles*) and boys

H1) Oh, and I like school as well

H2) Oh, and I like school as well

H1) My favourite subjects at school are maths and geography

H2) My favourite subjects at school are maths and geography

H1) Before school, I get up at quarter to seven to do a paper round

H2) Before school, I get up at five o'clock to draw water from the borehole.

H1) My school is about three miles away. I catch the bus that stops near my house.

H2) My school is about three miles away. I walk there and back.

H1) There are thirty two pupils in my class. That's quite big. Some classes are much smaller

H2) There are seventy eight pupils in my class. That's quite normal, but some classes are much bigger.

H1) I go to school because I have to. I've never really thought about why else.

H2) I go to school because I can. I know I'm one of the lucky ones, and I know it will help me improve my life.

H1) My dad's a council worker and my mum's a nurse.

H2) My mum and dad were both peasant farmers, and so is my grandmother

H1) My mum's 42 and my dad's 47, but he tries to look younger. He's so embarrassing.

H2) My parents both died four years ago because of the AIDS epidemic that sweeps our country, so I live with my gran now. I don't know how old she is.

H1) My best friend is called Katie. I can tell her anything. I met her at school.

H2) My best friend is called Rose. I can tell her anything. I met her at school.

H1) In the holidays I see her all the time

H2) When there is no school I don't really get to see her very much.

H1) When we're at school we always spend lunchtimes together

H2) When we're at school we always spend lunchtimes together

H1) We swap stuff from our packed lunches. We don't have school lunch cos we think they're gross.

H2) She gives me some of her porridge. This is the school lunch, but my gran can't afford to pay the pound a term for it.

H1) At home I love pasta, chicken and ice cream

H2) At home I eat potatoes and beans

H1) After tea, I've always got homework to do

H2) After tea, I've always got homework and farm work to do

H1) We don't have the Internet at home, but I like playing on my Play Station and watching TV

H2) We don't have electricity at home, but I like to read my school books by the light of a candle.

H1) I try hard, but I do get into trouble sometimes

H2) I try hard, but I do get into trouble sometimes

H1) When I grow up I want to be a teacher, I can see they get long holidays

H2) When I grow up I want to be a teacher, I can see they make a difference to people

H1) I do complain sometimes, but I know that I have a good life really

H2) I do complain sometimes, but I know that I have a good life really.

Harriet's Story – Part 2

The two girls stand exactly as before.

H1)My name is Harriet and I'm now 15 years old.

H2)My name is Harriet and I'm now 15 years old

H1)I feel like I've changed a lot in the last two years

H2)My whole life has changed in the last two years

H1)Well, some things have stayed the same

H2)Well, some things have stayed the same

H1)There's still school

H2)There's still school and the farm

H1)But I've learnt a lot more about the world around me

H2)But I've learnt a lot more about the world around me.

H1)Someone came to talk at school about Fair Trade

H2)Someone came to talk to us about Fair Trade

H1)It opened my eyes to the difference it can make to others

H2)It opened our eyes to the difference it could make to us

H1)Our family began buying Fair Trade tea and coffee

H2)We heard stories of people who were already Fair Trade producers

H1)And we began to write letters, campaign

H2)And he explained the opportunities for us

H1)Now our local supermarket is stocking Fair trade bananas as well

H2)By producing bananas for a Fair Trade company

H1)These are grown by small farmers, not large plantations and suppliers

H2)It was the first time we'd ever met someone from a company we supplied

H1)And that makes a huge difference

H2)And that's made a huge difference

H1)They do cost a bit more

H2)We get more money for our crops

H1)But it's worth it

H2)It's now worth the hard work

H1)Our whole town is involved now

H2)All the neighbouring farms are involved now

H1)It's great to be able to work together

H2)We're a co-operative with rights, and a voice

H1)There's still a long way to go to give everyone a fair deal

H2)Things could still get better for us

H1)But it's a start

H2)But it's an amazing start

H1)The more I think about it, the more I know I'm one of the lucky ones

H2)The more I think about it, the more I know I'm one of the lucky ones

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