

REMEMBER

A Sensory Drama by Gill Brigg

Adapted from an original story: “Wilfred Gordon McDonald Partridge” by Mem Fox

Pupils and adult supporters work in pairs.

There is a wheeled chair for the teacher.

The room is made dark slowly.

Screens are turned off and a note is placed on the door: ‘Please Do Not Disturb’

Teacher says: ***We will all be working in a story together.***

Check-in with everyone that they are ready to start.

The teacher arranges the space with a chair, shawl, bridal veil, slippers, baby clothes, child’s swimming costume. These may need to be placed out of sight.

The teacher begins:

I’m going to pretend to be an old person. This is my chair in the story.

The teacher puts a shawl around their shoulders to become the old person. The old person sings or chants the following verse:

***I can’t remember anything,
Anything.
Anything.
I can’t remember anything.
Anything at all.***

Please help me to remember my family

The pupils choose one of the items of clothing that have been laid out in the space. They help the old person to see and touch the things. Memories gradually return to the old person. This is clearly reflected in their body language as the pupils witness a returning memory. The pupils are thanked.

Between each item of clothing, the old person falls asleep for a few moments before moving on by chanting or singing the verse once again:

***I can’t remember anything,
Anything.
Anything.
I can’t remember anything.
Anything at all.***

Please help me to remember my family

A torch is used by another member of staff to illuminate the clothes to aid choice.

The script for each object is approximately as follows:

Bridal veil:

I wore this on the day I got married to my husband. He looked so handsome, and we were so very, very happy.

The old person tries on the veil. Pupils are invited to try the veil on.

If a male teacher, the veil belonged to his wife on their wedding day.

Swimming costume:

These belonged to my son. What are they called? He wore them when he was a little boy learning to swim. He was so, so happy when he learnt to swim.

Pupils show how to put trunks on because the old person has forgotten. A puppet or doll could be used.

Baby clothes:

My little girl was a baby once. She is grown up now with her own baby. She used to cry when she was a baby. Show me how a baby wears these clothes, please?

Pupils use a doll and put the doll in the old person's arms. The memory returns.

Slippers:

What are these? I wonder whose they were? ...Oh. They belonged to my husband. He died a while ago and I am still very sad.

The old person holds the slippers and sadly remembers.

Which of these things (gesturing to the other garments) will make me feel happy again? Which are the happy clothes?

Supported by adults, the pupils reflect on the clothes, and which are the happy ones. They play the game of cheering up the old person by passing them happy clothes.

The session ends with lots of praise.
The room is calmly returned to its usual state.

You will need:

'Please Do Not Disturb' sign
Wheeled chair
Comfortable chair
Shawl
Wedding veil
Slippers
Child's swimming trunks
Baby clothes