



MOS
duurzame
scholen
straffe
scholen

Alida



(Ringing signal) The spring half-term holidays are over, no doubt about that Dylan, Sophie and Bilal stop playing and run to Ms. Lucy, their teacher. The children are pushing and shoving to get into the class room first. “Easy, children, take it easy. I know you all like coming to school, but I didn’t know you loved it so much”, she joked.



POSSIBLE KEY QUESTIONS

Who thinks school is fun? Why? Why not?







There is a lot of noise and fuss in the classroom. “Quiet, children! Everyone into the circle”, Ms. Lucy yells. All the children are sitting in a circle around their teacher. “I want all of you to meet a new girl in our class. Alida is from Kenya and has only lived in our country since last week. Kenya is a country in Africa. Alida doesn’t speak Dutch yet, like we do, she speaks English.” On a large map Ms. Lucy shows where Kenya is and also where their own school is. Wow, they are poles apart. “I’d like Alida to be your friend,” she adds.

POSSIBLE KEY QUESTIONS

- What’s the name of the country we live in?
- What country were you born in? And your (grand)parents?
Can we find this country on the world map?
- Is this country close to Belgium? Is it far away?







The children are looking at Alida with eyes and curiosity. Alida's skin is very dark. She looks black! She must have a hundred braids in her hair. And she has coloured beads at the end of them. Her clothes have all the colours of the rainbow. She's so beautiful! Alida is a bit shy because of all the attention she gets. She doesn't know what to do and is twirling her hands.

POSSIBLE KEY QUESTIONS

- Who has already had braids? With coloured beads?
Other embellishments?
- Who is (already) able to create a braid?

Tip: create different kinds of braids with the children from different materials (e.g. plants, fabric, scoubidou...)







It's playtime. The winter sun is brightly shining on the children's heads. Playing has made Bilal thirsty. He yells at Sophie and Dylan: "I'm going to take a sip of water at the drinking water fountain." He drinks greedily. "Yummy! That tastes good. He notices Alida staring at him, eyes wide open. Bilal doesn't understand. Water is the most natural thing in the world, isn't it? Alida seems to be looking at him in disbelief. But why?

POSSIBLE KEY QUESTIONS

- Why, do you think, is Alida staring at Bilal, eyes wide open?







After playtime Bilal tells Ms. Lucy about Alida's reaction. Now the teacher thinks the time is ripe to tell more about the area Alida comes from.

“Until last week, Alida lived in Turkana in Africa. Turkana is very dry. It hasn't rained there for years. Consequently, there is little drinking water. Not only plants and animals, but also people need water. Water has become so important there that people are quarrelling about it. Because Alida's parents didn't feel safe any longer, they fled to our country.



POSSIBLE KEY QUESTIONS

- Who has already been very thirsty? What/How did you feel then?
→ dry mouth, not well...
- Who has already quarrelled? More than once? How did you feel?
- Who has already got involved in a quarrel about water? How did that happen?
- What do you think about people who quarrel (about water)?





The children don't understand. Dylan asks: "So, water is not available everywhere, is it? How come? Water comes from the tap, doesn't it?" "That's not the case in all countries", says Ms.

Lucy. "In some countries, the sun shines a lot and only little rain fall. Not all countries have enough money for waterworks constructions or to dig wells. Some children can't even go to school because they're on the way to fetch water almost the whole day. They're working hard trying to find a solution but this requires time.



POSSIBLE KEY QUESTIONS

- Where does water come from? → rain, river, sea
- Where does our drinking water come from? → Tip: an excursion to a water tower, a (small-scale) water treatment plant, drinking water centre, a (biological) farmer (where does he get water for his vegetables, animals...?)
- Some children cannot go to school because they have to fetch water. What do you think of that?
- Why?





Bilal confirms the teacher's story: "My father was born in Morocco, where high temperatures are normal too. Water is often brought home by the children in wheelbarrows." Bilal's classmates look at him with amazement. They didn't know that also in Morocco, some children have to work to get drinking water for their families.

POSSIBLE KEY QUESTIONS

- Why can it be so warm in Africa? → closer to the equator, global warming...
- What's your opinion about the fact that not everyone has access to drinking water?







After school Sophie, Dylan and Bilal are waiting for their parents. They are still talking about Alida's story. They think it's unfair that not everyone in the world can drink that delicious water.

"I've got an idea," Sophie suddenly shouts. "I know how we can help Alida." Bilal and Dylan are listening to her proposal curiously.

POSSIBLE KEY QUESTIONS

- What can we do to help children like Alida (who live in dry countries)? → be economical with water, take part in the Walk for Water, support water development projects, pay attention to 'hidden' water (= water footprint - e.g. in meat, clothing, beans from Kenya...)
- More about water footprint → www.waterfootprint.org

POSSIBLE 'HIDDEN WATER' ACTIVITY

Together with the children, plant some beans, sunflowers... in a jar. Place them in a bright and warm spot in the classroom. Discuss with the children what plants need no / little / a lot of / an excessive quantity of water. (You can also pay attention to measures.) Observe the growth process with them. Which plant is growing fast? Less fast? Not? Which one dries up? What are the reasons? Water (warmth and light) is a condition for the plant to grow. The water is, so to speak, in the plant (= 'hidden' water).





The next day Bilal, Sophie and Dylan go to Alida. “We’ve got a present for you,” they say in unison. Alida gets a packet in nice, red paper. Alida opens the package curiously. A drinking cup emerges. On the cup “WATER” is written in colourful letters. “Now you can drink as much water as you want in the classroom,” says Dylan, radiating. Alida is happy with her present and her new friends and shows that clearly: she’s smiling from ear to ear.





Alida

Target group:
from kindergarten third year till primary school fourth grade

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