A blue-toned illustration of a tent at night. Two children are sitting on the ground inside the tent, reading a large book together. A lantern is lit on the ground next to them. The background shows a window with a moon and stars, and various items like a drum and a toy car.

It is through literature, not simply literacy, that we learn to understand and empathise...Through literature, we can find our place in the world, feel we belong and discover our sense of responsibility. Amnesty understands this very well.

Award-winning author Michael Morpurgo

Picture books empower young readers to chart their own course through a story, to explore, pause, examine detail, question, flick back and forth, re-read. The interplay of pictures and words makes abstract ideas and complex issues accessible, even to very young children. Looking at the world from different viewpoints nurtures understanding. Great picture books show children how to stand up for themselves and others, the essence of human rights.

### Ideas for the classroom

**Aim:** Based around *Dreams of Freedom*, the activities in this booklet are designed to introduce children to the idea of freedom, explore human rights issues and how to stand up for themselves and each other.

**Age:** 3+

**What you need:** A copy of *Dreams of Freedom*; photocopies of the illustrations featured in the activities; pens/coloured pencils/collage materials/paints and paper.

**Teacher notes:** Read *Dreams of Freedom*. Talk to the children about the meaning of the word freedom – make it the word of the week.



#### Questions for discussion:

Each picture has questions to inspire class discussion



#### Activity:

Each picture has an accompanying activity, for instance painting and drawing, creative writing, craft or game



Artist: Birgitta Sif



Artist: Roger Mello

## Picture 1: Freedom to be a child

'Children are neither the property of their parents nor even the world. They belong only to their own future freedom.'  
*Mikhail Bakunin*



### Questions for discussion

- What would the world be like if children were in charge?
- How would you change the world?
- What would you do differently to adults?



### Drawing or writing activity

Draw or write your first thoughts of freedom

## Picture 2: Freedom to learn

'I don't mind if I have to sit on the floor at school. All I want is education. And I'm afraid of no one.'  
*Malala Yousafzai*

Malala is a Pakistani campaigner for girls' rights to education who was shot in the head by the Taliban. The picture shows how children in remote areas of the Amazon are woken up in the middle of the night to take a boat to school.



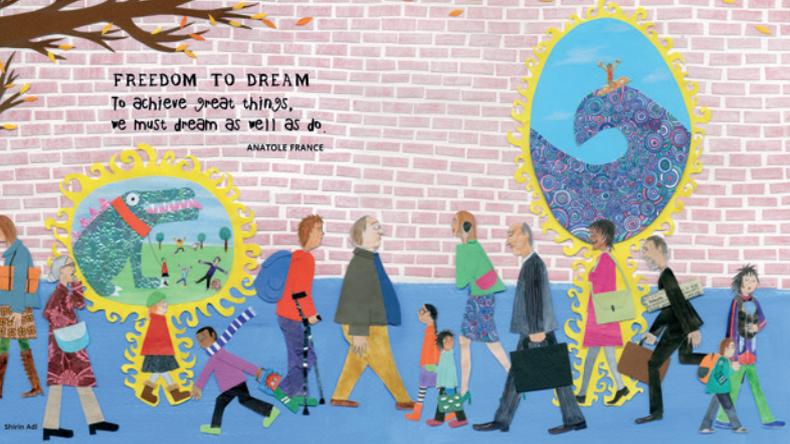
### Questions for discussion

- How does the girl in the picture feel about going to school?
- What happens if you don't go to school?
- What do you miss out on?



### Drawing or writing activity

Write a message or picture to Malala explaining why education is important



### Picture 3: Freedom to dream

'To achieve great things we must dream as well as do.'  
Anatole France



#### Questions for discussion

- What are the people dreaming about?
- What do you notice about people who aren't dreaming?



#### Drawing activity

Draw a picture to show one of your dreams

Artist: Shirin Adli

### Picture 4: Freedom from fear

'The only real prison is fear, and the only real freedom is freedom from fear... You should never let your fears prevent you from doing what you know is right.'  
Aung San Suu Kyi



#### Questions for discussion

- What is the mouse afraid of?
- What makes you scared?
- What would you say to comfort the mouse?



#### Craft activity

Make a collage showing somewhere you feel safe

Artist: Alexis Deacon



### Freedom to have your own ideas

I know what I want, I have a goal,  
an opinion ... Let me be myself  
and then I am satisfied.

ANNE FRANK

Javier Zabala

Artist: Javier Zabala

## Picture 5: Freedom to have your own ideas

'I know what I want, I have a goal, an opinion...  
Let me be myself and then I am satisfied.' *Anne Frank*

At the age of 13, Anne Frank had to hide during World War Two to escape the Nazis. She wrote a diary in her secret bedroom before she was found.



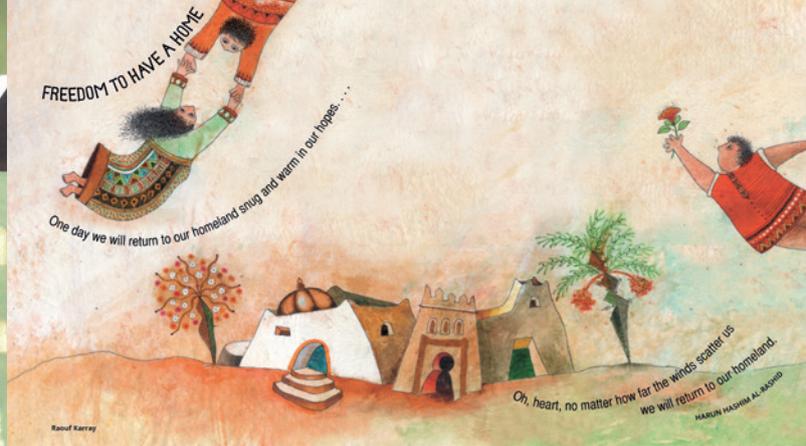
### Questions for discussion

- Why did Anne start writing her diary?
- For older children, explore their own experiences of diary-writing and what it means to them.



### Craft activity

Show children how to write a message in invisible ink



FREEDOM TO HAVE A HOME

One day we will return to our homeland snug and warm in our hopes....

Oh, heart, no matter how far the winds scatter us  
we will return to our homeland.

HARUN HASHIM AL-RASHID

Raouf Karay

## Picture 6: Freedom to have a home

'One day we will return to our homeland snug and warm in our hopes...  
Oh, heart, no matter how far the winds scatter us we will return to our homeland.'  
*Harun Hashim Al-Rashid*



### Questions for discussion

- Why are the people in the picture flying?
- Where do you feel is home?



### Role play activity

Use the idea of a magic carpet ride to transport children to different places – ask them to close their eyes and imagine the journey. Show them on the globe where they have come from and where you have landed. Make passports and stamp them as they learn about homes all over the world.

Artist: Raouf Karay

## Freedom to be yourself



## Picture 7: Freedom to be yourself

'If I am different I make no apology, and I hope that others will have the courage to be themselves and stand up for what they believe in, fight for those who need protection, love who they want to love, and be proud of it.' *Clare Balding*

Artist: Antje von Stemm



### Questions for discussion

- What makes these people different, or the same?



### Craft activity

Ask each child to draw a self-portrait. Make a display of all the portraits and talk about the differences.



### Game activity: 'Who is it?'

Cover a child's eyes and ask some of the other children to stand in front of him or her. Ask the child to guess who it is by touching the other child's face. Give them clues like colour of hair, or what he or she likes doing...



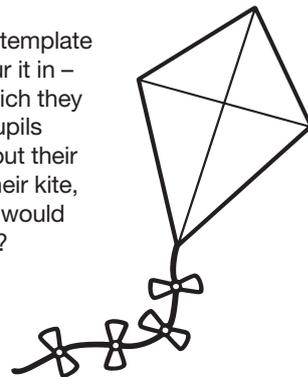
## Picture 8: Kites

This illustration is by Christopher Corr. It celebrates the fact that human rights are universal; they belong to all of us. Kites are often a symbol of hope and freedom, flying high.



### Craft activity

Give each child a kite template and ask them to colour it in – or draw a scene in which they feel free. Give older pupils one minute to talk about their kite. If they let go of their kite, where do they think it would go? Who might find it?



Artist: Christopher Corr



Anyone can stand up for  
freedom in many different  
ways. Find out more at  
[www.amnesty.org.uk](http://www.amnesty.org.uk)

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Teachers can find free downloadable  
human rights education activities for  
*Dreams of Freedom* and other books at

- [amnesty.org.uk/education](http://amnesty.org.uk/education) and
- [amnesty.org.uk/fiction-and-human-rights](http://amnesty.org.uk/fiction-and-human-rights)

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