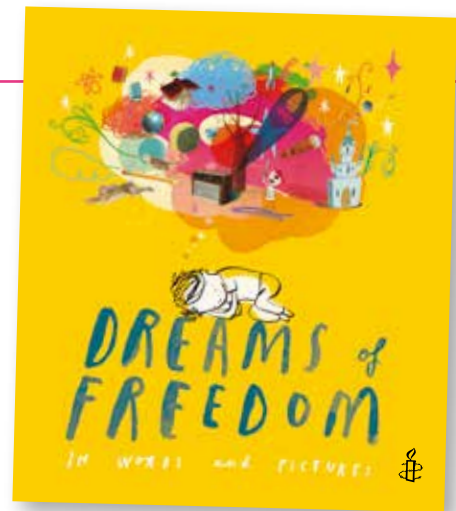


# DREAMS OF FREEDOM

Frances Lincoln Children's Books  
(Primary)



Amnesty's latest children's book, *Dreams of Freedom*, features 17 inspiring quotations from human rights heroes like Nelson Mandela, Malala Yousafzai and the Dalai Lama. Each one is matched with an evocative illustration from a leading international artist such as Oliver Jeffers and Chris Riddell. The book aims to empower children to explore the idea of freedom, build empathy and develop their knowledge and understanding of human rights.

Award-winning author Michael Morpurgo writes in the foreword: 'Dreams of Freedom is a feast of visual stories – brave words and beautiful pictures, woven together to inspire young readers to stand up for others and to make a difference.'

## IDEAS FOR THE CLASSROOM

### AIM:

Based around *Dreams of Freedom*, the three activities that follow are designed to introduce children to the idea of freedom and prompt engaging discussions about human rights.

### AGE:

7-11

### WHAT YOU NEED:

A copy of *Dreams of Freedom*; photocopies of the illustrations featured in the activities below; and pens/coloured pencils/paints and paper.

## ACTIVITY 1: FREEDOM TO LEARN

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



Malala Yousafzai is a Pakistani campaigner for girls' rights to education. When she was 15 she was shot in the head by the Taliban. She survived the attack and now lives in the UK, where she continues to campaign. Malala was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 2014.

Brazilian illustrator Roger Mello chose to emphasise Malala's quotation with a picture showing how children living in remote parts of the Amazon get up in the middle of the night and travel by boat to reach their nearest school.

### ACTIVITY:

Read out the quote and show the pupils the illustration. Explain who Malala Yousafzai is and what the picture represents. Ask the children to discuss:

- What freedom means to them
- What they think of the quotation and the illustration
- How they think the girl in the illustration feels about going to school
- How they would feel if they were prevented from going to school

Ask them to write a poem or message to Malala and/or the girl in the illustration explaining why education is important.

**ACTIVITY 2: 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



Aung San Suu Kyi won the Nobel Peace Prize in 1991 for her non-violent struggle for democracy and human rights in Burma. After spending nearly two decades under house arrest, she was released in 2010. Two years later she was elected to parliament.

**ACTIVITY:**

Read the quotation out to the class, show the pupils the picture and explain who Aung San Suu Kyi is. Ask the children to discuss:

- What freedom means to them
- What they think the mouse is scared of
- What makes them feel scared
- What makes them feel stronger

Give the pupils a photocopy of the illustration and ask them to draw themselves into the picture along with a speech bubble showing what they would say to comfort the mouse.

**ACTIVITY 3: FREEDOM FROM SLAVERY**

‘When I found I had crossed that line, I looked at my hands to see if I was the same person now I was free. There was such a glory over everything; the sun came like gold through the trees, and over the fields, and I felt like I was in Heaven.’ Harriet Tubman



Harriet Tubman (c. 1832-1913) was an African-American woman born into slavery. She escaped and became a civil rights activist, undergoing many dangers to help free hundreds of other slaves through the Underground Railroad (a network of secret routes and safe houses).

**ACTIVITY:**

Read the quotation out to the class, show the pupils the picture and explain who Harriet Tubman was. Ask the children to discuss:

- What freedom means to them
- How the picture and quotation make them feel
- How the picture shows the difference between freedom and slavery

Ask the children to draw or paint a hopeful image, for example, the Amnesty candle, their home, family or friends, or something else that represents ‘freedom’.

**OTHER ACTIVITIES**

**FREEDOM TO BE A CHILD**



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

Ask the pupils to discuss what they would do if they were in charge of the world and then vote for the favourites.

**FREEDOM TO ENJOY LIFE AND LIBERTY**



Ask the pupils to imagine that the bird escapes the cage:

- Where does it go?
- What does it see?
- Who does it meet?
- How does it feel to be outside the cage?

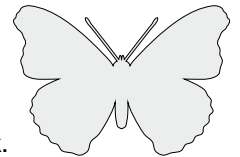
Ask them to write a short story about what they think happens to the bird.

**ACTIVITIES FOR ART LESSONS**



The illustration is by artist Peter Sis, who fled Soviet Czechoslovakia in 1982 and was granted asylum in the US. For him the butterfly is a symbol of hope.

Give each pupil a butterfly template and ask them to draw a scene in which they feel free. It might be real scene – eg. playing a game after school – or an imaginary one – like the island in the book.



**FREEDOM TO BE YOURSELF**



- What makes you different to everyone else?
- What do you have in common with your friends?
- Why is it important to be yourself?

Ask pupils to draw a picture or self-portrait that emphasises something that makes them unique.

**AMNESTY AND EDUCATION**

Amnesty UK's Human Rights Education programme has worked with schools for over 20 years. We provide resources, tools, training and professional development to help teachers bring human rights education to life. Amnesty also works with leading authors, illustrators, playwrights and poets to produce books aimed at a wide range of ages and interests.

Find out more [www.amnesty.org.uk/education](http://www.amnesty.org.uk/education)