



Helping Churches and Schools bring RE to life in Reading and beyond

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Single Activity Focus: Hot Seating Papa Panov

Activity Overview

Description	<p>A drama technique that focuses on an individual in a story. The character is played by a child volunteer, one of the children, who sits on the 'hot seat' and answers questions made by the other group members. The volunteer answers in character all the time they are on the 'hot seat'. Others can take turns in being on the hot seat.</p> <p>It does not require the volunteer to act. They reply in their own voice. It does not matter if the volunteer's gender is different to that of the character. The questioning is facilitated and managed by the adult group leader.</p>
Year Group	Years 3, 4, 5 & 6
Why use it	<p>It encourages the children to go deeper into a particular story by exploring an individual character. Children are encouraged to think of questions that are more concerned with opinions, thoughts and feelings as opposed to hard facts.</p> <p>This technique provides an opportunity for children to form and pose questions to an individual. Speaking and listening skills. To think about the character in a different way and more deeply and promotes empathy.</p>
Duration	10-15 mins
Size of group	8-10 children
Resources	A 'hot seat' i.e. a chair or cushion the volunteer can sit on in front of their peers.
More Information	<p>For more information on how to use this activity or the session this activity is used for, please contact the office@reinspired.org.uk</p> <p>For general information on Hot seating and other drama techniques you might like to try www.dramasource.com</p>
Instructions	<p>Hot Seating Papa Panov from The Lion Story Teller Bible by Bob Hartman – Year 3 Christmas & Year 5 Christian Rules & Codes Sessions</p> <p>Hot seating: A character is questioned by the group about his or her background, behaviour and motivation.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read the story of Papa Panov. • We are going to 'hot seat' Papa Panov and other characters in the story. For this, a volunteer will sit on the 'hot seat' and answer questions in role. NB: this does not require them to 'act'.



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- Before that, though, buzz for 10 seconds with the person next to you to decide what questions you would like to ask, e.g. what would you like to ask Papa Panov (or other character)?
- Buzzing gives you time to decide on which questions might be suitable – you will inevitably critique each other’s contributions - and also an opportunity to rehearse the asking of the questions.
- Giving this 10 seconds makes you work quickly and effectively.
- After the buzzing a volunteer needs to come forward to be Papa Panov and sit on the hot seat. As soon as the volunteer sits down they must answer as the character, and not as themselves.
- It is important to have a chair/spare chair that the volunteer moves to as this helps the process of becoming the character.
- Ask for questions for the character. It may be necessary when working with children to adapt the question e.g. if a child asks Papa Panov what his favourite food is, say something like, ‘Thank you for that. That’s an interesting question. I wonder what Papa Panov’s favourite food might be, especially as he was so poor and didn’t have much money for food.’ Always thank the children for their questions, and thank the child in the hot seat for their response.
- If the child in the hot seat says something that is their interpretation, then that’s fine. It might be true. However, if they say something that is fundamentally wrong still thank them for their answer. Ask them to go back to their place and turn the thought back to the group – ‘what do you think about that?’ Don’t say, ‘Amy said that ...’ as it’s not their fault. Asking the group gives them ownership of their learning. If you don’t receive the correction, you can say something like, ‘Christians believe that ... because it says/doesn’t say in the Bible’.
- Only 1 or 2 questions per volunteer in the hot seat as it can be quite hard work and intense, especially for year 3. Play it by ear and judge for yourself how many questions your particular group can cope with.
- When the volunteer has finished, thank them.
- Another volunteer can take the hot seat as Papa Panov again or as another character, i.e. the young girl, the road sweeper, etc.
- Hot seating helps children experience the information/story rather than just know it. It helps them delve deeper beyond the surface words. Children begin to empathise with characters more and gain a wider understanding of why characters think and behave as they do. In the case of Papa Panov, after hot seating, it becomes much clearer and easier to relate to how and when he was loving others, when he was serving/loving Jesus, the Golden rule and what it might feel like to be on the receiving end of that generous love.