

Christmas Gift List Lesson For Teachers

You will need;

A filled demo Link to Hope shoebox

Link to Hope Shoebox leaflets

Optional – show Link to Hope DVD at the end

- Ask people to think about their past Christmases
- How/where they spent it?
- Did they go away on holiday?
- Did they spend it with family/friends, takes up a lot of space with the Christmas tree, games and gifts
- Were your houses decorated? Inside and maybe outside, some of the light displays on houses are amazing!

- Did you all receive a gift?
- Hands up if you received more than one.
- I wonder if any of you counted how many gifts you received, or maybe there were too many!
- Are you excited about this year? Maybe you have been dropping hints, and leaving a Christmas list out.
- Ask a couple of people what they would really love to receive this Christmas.
- Estimate the price of those items.
- Looks like there are going to be some really exciting Christmases here!!

- Now contrast with many families in Eastern Europe.
- I am going to show you this Christmas gift - show filled shoebox, with lid on.
- In here are gifts for a whole family! (take a few out as you are talking)

- In Eastern Europe there are many desperately poor families who would not receive a single gift if it wasn't for these shoeboxes which are sent from the UK to them.
- Link to Hope (show leaflet) is a charity which works to help people who are living in poverty in Eastern Europe.
- One of the ways in which they do this is through the annual Shoebox Appeal.
- As many people as possible are encouraged to fill a shoebox with suggested items (give some examples from list) for either a family, or the elderly (Many elderly people live lonely isolated lives)
- Link to Hope aim to send around 40,000 shoeboxes out to people who otherwise would receive nothing at all.
- As I read you this account of just one of the shoebox deliveries, I want you to close your eyes and imagine I am talking about a member of your family, maybe your grandparents.....

It was dark, but only about 6.30pm when we pulled up outside a small ramshackle house, where there were no signs of life except a barking dog in the muddy yard outside.

Out of the house slowly appeared an elderly man who seemed surprised at our presence, his wife shuffled out behind him, leaning heavily on two walking sticks. They invited us into their home which

was in utter darkness, apart from a tiny glow of light which was coming from the small wood fire underneath the simple stove.

By the light of Cornel's torch we were able to see the inside of their gloomy home, even though they just had a few meagre possessions they took a great pride in them. They asked Cornel why we were visiting, and said they were very happy to be visited, but were not used to guests, and firstly felt afraid, which soon turned to excitement. They apologised for not being dressed well and said if we returned in the summer maybe they could warm some milk for us.

The elderly husband had recently spent three weeks in hospital for an operation for cancer in his mouth, during that time his wife has really struggled as she could not bring in any wood for the fire.

This couple were so touched by the gifts inside the elderly shoebox, Cornel carefully put a necklace from the box around the lady's neck and she teased her husband that he could not eat the sweets now as it meant they had some for Christmas. Truly a time when the gift of a shoebox brought happiness into difficult lives'

- Such a touching account, and quite shocking if we put our grandparents in their place.
- We would like to encourage each of you to take a leaflet and fill a shoebox, if it gets a bit expensive then involve family and friends and make one up together.
- Every shoebox makes a difference. You can make a difference.