

The Old Woman & The Red Pumpkin The Buri and The Marrow

These ideas can be used for

- Cross-curricular topic work involving children's different languages
- Language classes in the community
- MFL classes

See also resources on powerpoint and lesson plans (links)

Children studied this traditional story in English and Bengali. The theme is very similar to Little Red Riding Hood. The children established the sequencing of the story, acted out episodes in both languages, and used word searches in Bengali and English to consolidate vocabulary learning. Children in primary school with other languages read dual language storybooks to the class in Turkish and Somali.

'I haven't done work like this in school before, it was kind of a Bangla lesson with my teacher, she doesn't know Bangla, she was using a book that had Bangla in it and we were doing it at Bengali school with my teacher and that helped.' (a pupil who attended both mainstream and community class)

Resources

- English story book of The Old Woman & The Red Pumpkin and bilingual Bengali/English book The Buri and The Marrow
- Props e.g paper model of marrow, posters of pictures from the story drawn by the children, masks etc
- List of key words in Bengali and English
- Word search, worksheets of matching words and sentences in Bengali and English

Lesson structure

- Practise keywords in Bengali & English
- Discuss English translation of keywords
- Learn words through drama/role play/word search – build into English sentence and act out
- Matching Bengali text with correct pictures from the story
- Write script and sentences using words from their own language

Aspects of learning

- Understanding and remembering words in another language through drama and role play
- Children worked out differences between words in Bengali and Sylheti (the spoken variety of Bengali used in children's homes and the local community)
- Build confidence in working collaboratively to listen and respect other people's ideas and languages
- Strengthen communication using different languages through drama

Home-school links

- Talk to parents/grandparents about their experiences of journeys taken to visit relatives in the country where they grew up
- Invite parents/grandparents to come in and share their experiences with the children in the class