

## Yellow set resource sheet: Year 3

### Sami's new beginning

Sami and his dad had only just arrived in England. Sami thought everything was very strange and very exciting. He unpacked his stuff, then phoned his mum and his sister back in Finland and told them all about it. He didn't tell them how much he missed them. When Monday came, he could hardly wait to start at his new school.

But things went wrong from the very beginning. He made mistake after mistake. He kept sitting in the wrong place, he kept using the wrong pencils, he got left behind when the class all went into assembly and he stayed in when he was supposed to go outside at playtime. He went into dinner with the wrong class and was still on the playing field, reading, when everyone had gone back inside. By the end of the day the other children were all watching him, wondering what on earth he would do next. When he went out of school through the wrong gate they fell about laughing. They hadn't had this much fun in ages.

On Tuesday the first lesson was literacy. The teacher asked Sami to read aloud, but he mumbled and stumbled over the words. The children thought they would burst, they were trying so hard not to laugh. Next it was circle time. The children had to swap places if they liked the same things. They all seemed to know what to do, but Sami was completely confused. He didn't understand why children kept getting up and running across the circle and yet when he ran across the circle everybody started to laugh, until things were in an uproar.

'I think we'll finish with a quieter activity,' said the teacher. 'Ask the person next to you if they will tell you something special about themselves, and then, if they don't mind, tell the rest of us what that special thing is. You have two minutes' listening time each.'

Sami was sitting next to Jodie. When she looked at his bewildered face, she could hardly keep her own face straight. 'Shall I start?' she said, and then, without waiting for an answer, she told him about all her swimming badges and her ice-skating badges and her judo belts. Sami was very impressed. He could do none of these things. But, before he had a chance to tell Jodie anything about himself, the teacher said: 'Time's up.'

When it was his turn, he told the rest of the class what Jodie had told him. Then the teacher asked Jodie to tell them all something about Sami. Jodie looked embarrassed.

'We ran out of time,' she muttered. 'Jodie, I'm surprised at you,' said the teacher. 'I would have thought you knew the rules by now.' Jodie looked cross and uncomfortable.

The teacher said to Sami: 'Perhaps you would like to tell us something special about yourself?' He looked around at the circle of faces. He could tell that some of the children were trying not to laugh. He stood up, took a deep breath, and said:

'I am Finnish, and you have seen that I don't speak English very well, but I can speak Finnish, of course, and some French and some Russian. I am not good at sport like Jodie, but I think, perhaps, I am good at maths and art. I was very excited to come to England. I wanted to come to school here for a while to learn. But now I am here I am very unhappy because I don't know any of the rules and nobody tells me what to do; they just laugh at me. I would like to be back in Finland but I have promised my father I will come here and try and learn to speak better English. That's all there is to tell about me.' He sat down. The children went very quiet.

*What do you think the children were feeling after Sami spoke?*