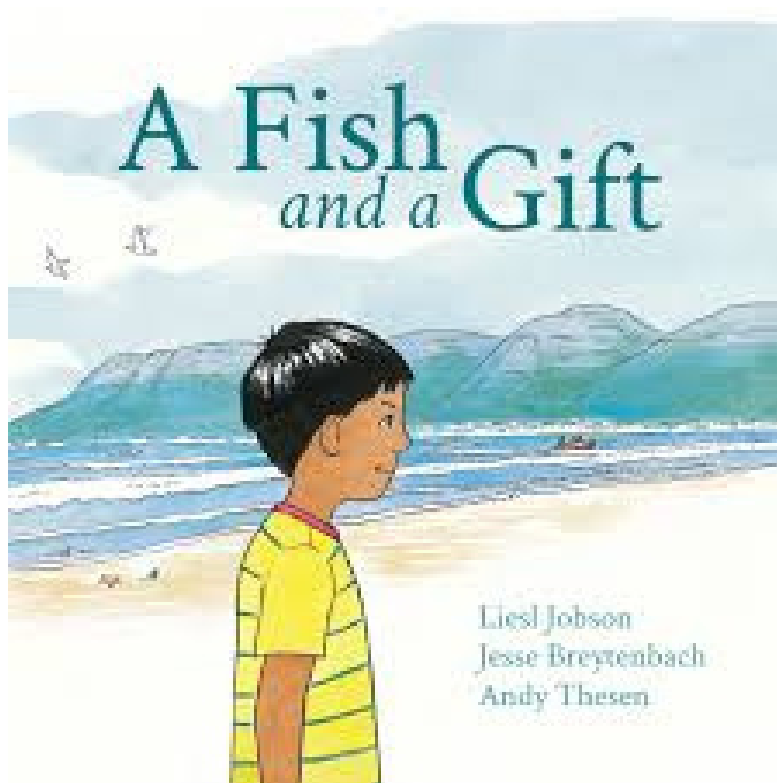


A Fish and a Gift

A Guide for Teachers and Parents



Written by Lavanya Karthik

Illustrated by Lavanya Karthik

THEMES

Culture & Tradition

Family & Friends

Social & Emotional Learning

SUB-THEMES

Social & Emotional Learning

Livelihood & Occupations

Story Discussion Guide

- Understand how war and civil unrest affect children.
- Explore how creativity can be a tool for healing and expression.
- Recognize that children around the world share common dreams, like becoming artists.
- Reflect on the emotional trauma of displacement and how small actions can support others

Lesson Plan

Use creative storytelling, empathy-building, and art-based activities to help students understand the emotional toll of displacement and the healing power of imagination.

Learning Outcome

Before Reading:

- What is art to you? Do you need paints or materials to make art?
- Have you ever lost something important to you?

During Reading:

- How does the boy try to make art without his brushes?
- What feelings do you think he is experiencing?
- How does his view of being an artist change?

During Reading:

- What are some reasons children might be left out or teased in school?
- How do you think it feels to be called names or treated unfairly just because you're poor?
- What can we do to be kinder and more supportive friends?

Activities :

1. In My Little Bag (Reflection + Art)

Ask students to imagine they must pack a small bag quickly and leave home.

- What 3–5 items would they take?
- Draw or write about each item.
- Discuss: What would you miss most? Why?

2. Nature Collage (Art)

Let children use leaves, petals, twigs, and scrap paper to make their own art piece—just like the boy.

3. Windowpane Sketches (Sensory + Creativity) Use clear plastic or transparency sheets and washable markers to let students draw using their fingers, imagining a foggy window.

4. Global Artists Gallery (Research or Visual Sharing) Explore stories of refugee children who use art to express themselves (UNHCR or UNICEF campaigns).

Expected Outcomes

- Increased empathy and understanding of displaced children's experiences
- Appreciation for art as an emotional and expressive tool
- Recognition of trauma in a gentle, age-appropriate manner
- Ability to link emotions to creative expression

Applicable SDGs

- SDG 4: Quality Education
- SDG 10: Reduced Inequalities
- SDG 16: Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions

SDG Explanation

- SDG 1: Highlights the impact of poverty and unemployment on families.
- SDG 10: Focuses on social exclusion and peer discrimination faced by homeless children.
- SDG 16: Promotes empathy, fairness, and inclusion for all children

ABOUT ZAMASAMA

Zamasama is a nonprofit initiative that curates children's stories from diverse cultures and lived experiences around the world. It gives children a window into other communities—and a mirror that affirms their own, helping children recognize the shared humanity that connects us across differences.

Through narratives that gently challenge biases and broaden worldviews, Zamasama helps children see difference not as a barrier but as a bridge. Through the power of stories, we sow the seeds of pluralism that can grow into a more harmonious world for all.