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West Coast Steiner School: We are Here! incursion

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West Coast Steiner School Book Week literacy incursion: We are Here!



Class 5 at West Coast Steiner School was extremely fortunate to enjoy a Book Week literacy incursion from the We are Here! Foundation. We studied an autobiographical story written by the late Dorrith Sim, one of ten thousand Jewish children rescued from Germany by the Kindertransport charity before World War Two broke out. Dorrith's inspiring story, "In my Pocket," described her experience as a seven year old travelling to her adoptive family in Scotland, the inclusivity and belonging extended to her by strangers, and the strategies she used to learn the English language where she would store each new word in a "pocket" in her memory.

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After discussing the story and illustrations, the children designed and painted their own pockets containing those things most precious to each of them. They then wrote reflective thank you cards for the organisers, Jill and Eli Rabinowitz. Please enjoy a glimpse into the children's insights from their thank you reflections:

"I learned that you can find light even in the darkest of places."

"One of the ways you can learn is that you have to be respectful of people because of their history and backgrounds, they might be carrying sadness about it."

"The story tells people that kindness from strangers can really save a life...Dorrith used her "pocket" to store precious memories while focusing on the present."

"I think it's important for people to learn about how refugees might be feeling and how they can help."

"Nothing is impossible if I try! I think the story started out sad but had a happy ending. I love happy endings!"

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to Jill, Eli, and the We are Here! Foundation for providing such an engaging, thought-provoking and heart-warming incursion for the children. Yishar Koach!

Elaine Meyer

Class 5/Maar Teacher

West Coast Steiner School

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"I learned that you can find light even in the darkest of places." – Liam

"I think what people can learn is simple but beautiful: people who haven't been through it can learn to support others, while people who have been through it can let it out and relate to others." – Nalina

"One of the ways you can learn is that you have to be respectful of people because of their history and backgrounds, they might be carrying sadness about it." – Matilda

"I think that Dorrieth felt like children should know what is happening in the world, and I agree." – Harriet

"The story tells people that kindness from strangers can really save a life...Dorrieth used her "pocket" to store precious memories while focusing on the present." – Norah

"I think it's important for people to learn about how refugees might be feeling and how they can help." – Austin

"Nothing is impossible if I try! I think the story started out sad, but had a happy ending. I love happy endings!" – Eduarda

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Elaine Meyer

Maar/Class 5 Teacher



East Maddington Primary School Reflections:



**REFLECTION:
ARTIST'S STATEMENT**

On my pocket I drew the little girl with her foster parent comforting her with the dog. I drew this because the dog is an remembrance of her stuffed dog, her stuffed dog is important because her parents bought it for her so it's a memory of her parents.

I n **M**y
Pocket



**REFLECTION:
ARTIST'S STATEMENT**

On my pocket, I drew the note that Dorith received from her parents because I think that getting some kind of communication with her parents meant a lot to her. I added glitter to the sides to resemble that that moment is a key memory to her mind. The note is probably the last thing she

Dear Dorithith
Even if I'm not there,
my love will always
be **IN MY
POCKET**
Waiting for You
Love Mom, Xvati

**REFLECTION:
ARTIST'S STATEMENT**

On My pocket I drew a white and red train in the train station when Dorith was getting picked up by a new family in London.

The train was important because the train was helping the children travel one place to another and by helping the children get a new family.



**REFLECTION:
ARTIST'S STATEMENT**

On my pocket I drew a train with the children leaving in it, it is important because it was the last time Dorith saw her real parents. And the kind man gave her the toy dog back.

I N **M**Y **P** O C K E T

