

Lesson Plan 5:

Literacy/PSHE - Learning about the life of a street child

(Slide 21 is relevant to this lesson)

Based on what they have learnt during the day, the children need to put themselves into the position of a street child in Cebu and write about their day.

They could draw a timeline for their day and try to compare the differences with a child in Cebu.

Here are two stories of children living in poverty in Cebu, who are now sponsored by Mercy in Action to attend school.

- The stories are on the next pages for you to print to hand out to the children to read in class to help them with the task.

Kitty's Story

Kitty is eleven years old and has a Mercy in Action sponsor who provides the money she needs to go to school.

Kitty lives in Tabunok in a house made out of bamboo sticks. It has one room where she sleeps with her mother, father, 3 sisters and baby brother. There is one chair in the room and mats on the floor for their beds. There is a cover on the roof which stops the rain coming in but when the rain is heavy it seeps through the sides of the house.

Kitty's mum has a food stall close to the house and so it is often smelly and sometimes there are rats crawling around at night. Until Kitty was 10 she did not go to school, she stayed at home with her mum either looking after her siblings or helping her mum to sell food. Often she also had to go out in the evenings to sell flowers to passers-by to earn more money.

One of Kitty's favourite things is to play outside with other children when it rains heavily.

Last year, a social worker from Mercy in Action spoke to Kitty's mum and encouraged her to send Kitty to school rather than working with her. Kitty now has a sponsor in England who provides the money she needs to go to school.

Kitty is much happier now she is at school and when she is older she wants to be a teacher.



Paul's Story

We live in Tapul. Every morning, my younger brother and I wake up at 5a.m. and walk about 10 minutes to the river where we shower and then on the way we fetch water for our family from the water pump.

For breakfast our mother cooks us boiled eggs and instant noodles. Our school is up in the mountains and takes about 30 minutes to get there. I really like my school. In the mountains there are many tall green trees and we can look down on the city – it is much cooler than back home.

There are 50 children in my class so I have to write everything down and listen carefully. My favourite subjects are English and science.

At lunch time, my brother and I sit with the other children who are sponsored by Mercy in Action because they bring our lunch. We sometimes get an extra plate of rice if there's spare which is good as I get really hungry after school.

School finishes at 3 o'clock and my brother and I walk to the market where our stepfather works. There we play with the other kids and wait for him to take us home at 5 o'clock.

My favourite food is fried chicken but I only have this at lunch sometimes. I know how to cook rice and so I help my mum boil water and watch the rice and my brother goes to wash the dishes at the water pump. My step father brings dried fish from the market and sometimes some vegetables and my brother and I will sit outside and eat together.

I always take a shower by the river in the evening because it cools me down from the heat. We are lucky as my step-father helped build another room in our house so we have two rooms. My brother and I go to sleep in one room at 8 p.m. on our bamboo mats.

On a Saturday I go to school from 7 until 10 in the morning and then I go to play at the beach with my friends. My brother and I have a toy car each which our aunty bought us when she won some money on the lotto. We like to play cars, we also like playing outside with our friends, skipping, running races and playing tricks on each other.

I hope that at the end of the year I will pass Grade 3 at school and move onto Grade 4. When I am older I would like to be a policeman because I would like to help people. My brother wants to be a policeman, too, but I will be a chief policeman because I am older than him.

