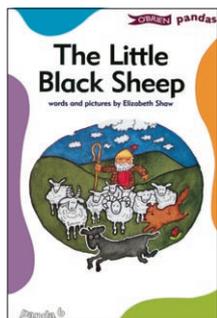


THE LITTLE BLACK SHEEP – PANDA 6



Written and illustrated by Elizabeth Shaw

ISBN: 0-86278-463-8 • €5.50 pb • 64 pages

Far away in the mountains lived a shepherd and his dog, Polo. Polo watched the flock while the shepherd sat on a rock, knitting socks and scarves from pure wool. All the sheep obeyed Polo's commands, except the little black sheep, who preferred to think things through for himself. However, when the security of the flock is threatened, it is the non-conformist sheep who saves the day, and even Polo is forced to accept that differences can be life-enhancing.

LANGUAGE – ENGLISH

- ◆ Language of sheep: Crook, fold, flock, shearing-time, fleece, ewe, ram, lamb.
- ◆ Colourful descriptions: As difficult as 'finding a needle in a haystack/an ice cream at the North Pole'. Children list their own expressions.
- ◆ Discussion: Did the shepherd do his job well? Was he a good shepherd? Why?
- ◆ Rhyme: Little Bo-Peep has lost her sheep.

LANGUAGE – GAEILGE

- ◆ Deir Ó Grádaigh/Deir Polo: crom do cheann, cas ar chlé, tiontaigh ar dheis.

SESE – GEOGRAPHY

- ◆ Weather: Connection between cloud cover/sky darkening and rainfall, white fleecy clouds, rain, hail, wind and snow. Weather folklore: Animals lying down, birds flying low, red sky at night, etc.
- ◆ People at work: People who supply food and other products for us; raw wool turned into knitted produce and sold at market. Work of the shepherd; sheepdog helping the

shepherd; training sheepdog to recognise signals and calls.

- ◆ Homes and shelter: Importance of keeping warm, finding shelter.

SESE – SCIENCE

- ◆ Living things: Characteristics of sheep; lambing-time in early spring, a busy time for farmers; provides humans with food – chops, cutlets, roast, kidneys, mutton.

SPHE

- ◆ Self-awareness: Recognising and appreciating

similarities and differences, tolerance and acceptance of differences; discussing personal strengths, abilities and weaknesses, recognising why people might fear differences.

- ◆ Myself and others: Isolating those who are different/welcoming newcomers; treating everyone with dignity and respect; recognising and exploring bullying behaviour and identifying this as a sign of weakness or fear.
- ◆ Developing citizenship: Appreciating the diversity of cultures and people in local community, recognising their contributions as enriching for all.
- ◆ Circle time: 'I'm special because ...'; 'I feel important when I ...'

MATHEMATICS

- ◆ Numeration: Counting, sorting and classifying into sets of black/white sheep.
- ◆ Money: Earning money by selling woollen products, buying more sheep.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

- ◆ Warm-up: Sheep scattered around, gambolling, running, grazing. Stop when teacher whistles or signals.
- ◆ Game: O'Grady says/Polo says ...
- ◆ Game: Groups of sheep running from sheepdogs, freeze when caught.

VISUAL ARTS

- ◆ Lamb mobile: See *Busy Fingers* series, No.1, Spring, p.2.
- ◆ Sheep collage: See p.10, as above.
- ◆ Wool pictures: Pieces of wool of different lengths and colours pasted to hard card in interesting patterns.