

## TEACHER'S NOTES

## ACTIVITY 4A. In my place

**In this activity, students will...**

- Become more aware of the many obstacles that newly arrived students have to overcome.
- Identify those obstacles.
- Reflect on the fact that adjusting to life in another country does not simply entail learning a new language.
- Discuss the fact that we are very often unaware of what moving to another country really means for a young person.

ESTIMATED  
TIME

40 MIN

**How to use this resource**

<b>STAGE 1</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Ask your students about their experiences in or knowledge of a foreign country.</li> <li>· Ask them if they have ever found themselves in situations in which they could not communicate because they did not speak the language or were unfamiliar with the culture.</li> </ul>	<b>5'</b>
<b>STAGE 2</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Ask your students to work in small groups. They should brainstorm to identify the things they would (or actually did) miss the most if (or when) they started living in another country (item 1 in the table).</li> <li>· Ask each group to make a list.</li> </ul>	<b>10'</b>
<b>STAGE 3</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Ask the groups to discuss and identify the things they would (or actually did) find it most difficult to adjust to if (or when) they started living in another country (item 2 in the table).</li> <li>· Ask each group to make a list.</li> </ul>	<b>10'</b>
<b>STAGE 4</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Ask the groups to find a metaphor, an image or an example that illustrates how it feels to start school without speaking the language used there and without having any friends (item 3 in the table).</li> <li>· Write the answers on the board.</li> </ul>	<b>5'</b>
<b>STAGE 5</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Compare all the lists and write them up on the board.</li> <li>· Have your students prepare a poster based on their lists.</li> <li>· Reflect with your students on aspects of the experience of settling in another country. How would you feel in the place of a young person in a new country?</li> </ul>	<b>10'</b>

**Prep time suggestions**

- Find examples of culture shock or culture clash from literature or TV/cinema (e.g. *Spanglish*, *Gran Torino*, *My Big Fat Greek Wedding*, etc.).
- In preparation for this activity, ask your pupils to think about their experiences of travelling.
- Read chapter 5 of the Teacher's Book *Inclusion, Diversity and Communication Across Cultures*, available online (<https://pagines.uab.cat/eylbid/en/content/teachers-book>), for extra background information on the topic of child language brokering and the feelings it evokes.

### SOME TIPS AND IDEAS TO GUIDE DISCUSSION

1. If you were to move to another country, what would you would enjoy discovering/miss the most?

- Friends
- Relatives (e.g. cousins, grandparents, etc.)
- My school
- My town
- My neighbourhood

2. What things do you think it might be easiest/hardest to adjust to?

- Making new friends
- Starting a new school
- Learning a new language
- The weather
- The food

3. Can you find a metaphor, an image or an example to describe the experience of starting school without speaking the language used there and without having any friends?

### 4A. In my place

“When people move to another country, they have to learn not only a new language but also about a new culture. Young translators go through that experience while acting as linguistic and cultural mediators for their family and friends. And at times it is not easy to deal with all those things.”

“What would you do in my place?”

