



Speak Up Speak Out

Primary Assembly - Suitable for Key Stages 1 and 2

Resources:

- image of the [Speak Up, Speak Out symbol](#), either projected or using the poster

Script:

Today is Holocaust Memorial Day. Each year on 27 January we learn about events that have happened in the past, sometimes in the last few years. Events that were very bad, where many people suffered but we hope we can learn from them and remember the people who lived through these terrible times and acted bravely.

This year the theme for Holocaust Memorial Day is **Speak Up, Speak Out** and I would like to tell you the story...

The clearing in the woods was home to the small forest creatures. They were content. Until the day the Terrible Things came.

‘We have come for every creature with feathers on its back’, the Terrible Things thundered. The Terrible Things had brought their terrible nets, and they flung them high and caught the birds and carried them away. But life went on almost as before. Until the day the Terrible Things came back.

‘We have come for every bushy-tailed creature who lives in the clearing’, the Terrible Things thundered.

The squirrels chattered their fear and ran high into the treetops. But the Terrible Things swung their terrible nets higher than the squirrels could run and wider than the squirrels could leap and they caught them all and carried them away.

But life went on almost as usual. Until the day the Terrible Things came back.

‘We have come for any creature that is white,’ the Terrible Things thundered.

The rabbits scampered in every direction. ‘Help!’ they screamed. ‘Somebody help!’ But there was no one left to help.



Little Rabbit was little enough to hide in a pile of rocks by the pond and smart enough to stay so still that the Terrible Things thought he was a rock himself.

When the Terrible Things had all gone, Little Rabbit crept into the middle of the empty clearing. 'I should have tried to help the other rabbits,' he thought. 'If only we creatures had stuck together, it could have been different.'

Reprinted from Terrible Things, an Allegory of the Holocaust, ©1980 by Eve Bunting, published by The Jewish Publication Society, with the permission of the publisher.

The full story is available as a picture book from [JPS](#).

What does this story tell us? It tells us that if we do not speak out for others, there might not be anyone left to speak out for us if we need it. That things could have been different for everyone, had our voices been used to stand up for each other.

Some people are brave enough to speak out even if the bad things that are happening do not happen to them.

If we see something that is unfair, where someone is suffering, we should do the right thing and tell someone.

Many years ago, during World War Two, different people were treated unfairly, just because of who they were or what they believed in. Some people were brave and spoke up, whilst many others didn't. Afterwards, like Little Rabbit, they wish they had.

Let's learn from lessons of the past, and use our voice to look after different people, everyone in our community, so we can create a safer, better future for everyone.