

What friendship means to Alhadgi

Alhadgi and Abubakar are both 12 years old and live in Kroo Bay, Freetown, Sierra Leone. The boys have been friends for as long as they can



PHOTO: GULHEM ALANDRIP DOCUMENTOGRAPHY

remember. Every day they collect scrap metal together, which they can sell. They use the money to pay for their own food, clothes and entertainment, which helps take the financial burden off their mothers. Alhadgi and Abubakar agree that it is better to collect scrap metal together so that they have company and can help each other. Afterwards they usually buy bread and eat together.



PHOTO: GULHEM ALANDRIP DOCUMENTOGRAPHY

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Alhadgi's story

Alhadgi: "I collect scrap metal every day, once in the morning and once in the afternoon. I always try to go with my best friend Abubakar. It's better when we're together because we can carry much more. Also we talk, play and laugh, telling each other about things that happened that were funny. We talk about everything."



Abubakar: "We don't like collecting scrap metal, but when we don't have money we have to. It's better going together, we can talk. I see Alhadgi every day and we've been best friends since we were small. We like to play football and hide and seek and make kites. I'm a kite-making professional!"

"We're best friends because Alhadgi has never done anything bad to me, and I have never done anything bad to him. I also like him because when he has money and I have none, he shares his food."

How Save the Children is helping
Kroo Bay is made up of a group of higgledy-piggledy shacks on the banks of the Crocodile river. People up the hill use the river as a rubbish dump. Every year it floods, spreading disease. In August 2007, Save the Children worked with a group of local volunteers to fill empty rice sacks and bank the rivers to protect people's homes. We're also working with the community to make it safe and healthy for the children who live there.

Teaching suggestions

- Children could be asked to work with a new friend to make, for example, kites using recycled materials. Then they could try to get them off the ground. Together they should concentrate on improving their communication skills and learn about the need to compromise and respect each other.

- Remind the children why Abubakar says he's friends with Alhadgi. Ask the children to think of all their reasons for being friends with someone and compile a class list. Decide together if it would be possible to rank these qualities, or whether they are each equally important.
- Remind the children that Alhadgi and Abubakar prefer collecting scrap metal together, rather than on their own, so they can talk and keep each other company. Use one of the photographs as a stimulus and ask the children to write a dialogue between the boys.

Linked resources: DVD – Kroo Bay film
Home activities

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