** 9. Born to run**

*There is an accompanying PowerPoint for this assembly*

|  |
| --- |
| **Age range:** Primary |
| **Theme:** This term, we are thinking about leaders, leading and following, and now continue our theme looking at leaders from across the world and across history, to inspire us to be better leaders – and followers! – ourselves. We will look at wise words and wise lives, as well as use some key religious dates on the calendar to connect us with stories about leaders. This week, the focus is on the theme of injustice, as seen in the life of Olympic athlete Wilma Rudolph, who ran in the 1960 Olympics in Italy. |
| **Diamond How does this link to your school’s Christian vision & values?**This week, we are linking to the values of justice, perseverance and treating others fairly.  |
| **Resources:** * The PowerPoint slides are numbered with a point in the script so you can find your way, and the parts in **bold** show you where to click on to activate the next slide or animation.
* You will need to print out the statements on p.5 onto card for the introductory game.
* **You can find more photos of athlete Wilma Rudolph from here:** [**The Official Website of Wilma Rudolph**](http://wilmarudolph.com/)**, & here:** [**Garden of Praise: Wilma Rudolph Biography**](https://gardenofpraise.com/ibdwilma.htm) **or video of her running here:** [**Wilma Rudolph at Rome 1960 | Epic Olympic Moments - YouTube**](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FPVdpJZJi-o) **She’s also featured in the Little People, Big Dreams series, written for children.**
* **Reflective activity:** this week, you will need to create your own class charter, so paper and pens are the only resources needed.
 |
| Door Open**Gathering:** * **Slide 1:** Use these new gathering words for this term, or your usual greeting if you prefer. The greeting comes with BSL signing, you can view the demos using links under the slide.

**Leader:** As we share these stories of leaders…**ALL:** May we follow their example in **thoughts** and **words** and **actions**. |
| Puzzle**Engaging:** * **Slide 2: That’s not fair!** ‘I wonder if you’ve ever said “That’s not fair!”?…..If you have, what have you said it about? *[ask a few children /adults, making no significant comments about anything anyone says, then continue:]*
* Today we’re going to be hearing about something that one Olympic athlete thought was very unfair, but to prepare us for this, I’ve got some statements here…..some things that might or might not be unfair, and I’d like you to help me decide which things you think are *truly* unfair *[read out the cards, encouraging children to decide whether or not they go in the box or not. You’ll probably find that children change their minds about some as other cards get read out, which is what you want! You might also find that there are some situations that are surprising to children about how the poor / women / children are treated, so this may need to be followed up outside of the collective worship. When all the cards have been sorted to the children’s satisfaction, continue again:]*
* **Slide 3:** There is much in our world that truly is not fair……We’re going to go back in time to the year 1960, when the Summer Olympics were in Rome, Italy……In 1960, there were laws in some countries that meant that people with black skin were not treated the same as those with white skin. To help you understand what this really means, I’m going to pretend for a few moments……
* **Slide 4:** It would be like me saying to all the children in this hall who have brown hair that they weren’t going to be allowed out at playtime with the other children, or to eat in the dinner hall at the same time as all the other children, or even be a part of the same lessons as all the other children…….if they got sick, they wouldn’t be allowed to go to the same hospitals as other children….and when they grew up, they wouldn’t be able to get good jobs because their hair was brown……in fact, they would always be treated unfairly because of the colour of their hair……
* Now this is just pretend! In our school we would *never* treat people in that way, but it gives you an idea of what things were like in some parts of our world for people with black skin. To us, it might seem ridiculously unfair that anyone should be treated differently because of how they look – but in 1960, people with black skin were not allowed to freely mix with people with white skin. And we all know that our world is still a place where things are not fair for everyone.
* **Slide 5:** This *[show photo]* is Wilma Rudolph, an American athlete. As you can also see from the photo, she won some Olympic medals, which you’ll hear about in a moment. Wilma was born into a very large family – the 20th of 22 children in fact! – and as a premature baby (that means she was born earlier than people expected), she weighed only 4.5llbs (most babies these days weigh around 8llbs). But because she was black, she couldn’t be treated at the local hospital with the white people and her family were too poor for her to be taken elsewhere.
* **Slide 6:** She was sick through much of her childhood and developed a serious disease called polio, which left her unable to use her left leg. She was only able to walk properly for the first time aged 12! Looking back on her childhood later on in her life, she said: **“My doctor told me I would never walk again. My mother told me I would. I believed my mother.”**
* Fortunately, her mother was right, and at school, Wilma discovered she could run. She competed in her first Olympics in 1956, aged 16, and was part of the team sent to the Olympics in 1960.
* **Slide 7:** She won three gold medals – for the 100m, the 200m and as part of the 4x100m relay team. She was the first woman ever to do this, an incredible achievement.
* Back in her hometown, Clarksville, a homecoming banquet was organised in her honour, but Wilma discovered that once again, black people and white people were not going to be allowed to be together. She refused to attend this banquet unless all people were allowed to mix freely. Her homecoming meal was the first time in the city’s history that an important event was held without segregation, where all people could freely attend, whether they were black or white. Wilma Rudolph continued to protest until all the segregation laws in her town were taken away. She was a true Olympic hero….in every sense.
 |
| Thought bubble**Slide 8: Responding (words for worship):** **….so in the stillness of this moment, let’s spend some time wondering together…..**St. Paul, whose story we heard just a couple of weeks ago, wrote these words: **‘Now, in Christ, there is no difference between Jew and Greek. There is no difference between slaves and free men. There is no difference between male and female. You are all the same in Christ Jesus.’ [Galations 3:28]**Paul lived in a world that was unfair. In God’s eyes, he said, all people are equal and all should be treated fairly….…we’ve been thinking today about our world, and how in some places, people are *still* treated unfairly…..because of the colour of their skin…or because they are poor….. or a girl….. or a child…… ….Wilma Rudolph grew up in an unfair world too, but it made her want to do something about it, and when she saw her opportunity, she did what she could…..…she stood up for what she believed was right by refusing to go to her own banquet unless everyone could mix freely….……it takes great courage to act in this way…..…..our world needs more leaders like Wilma Rudolph…..**Slide 9: ….I wonder what we might learn from Wilma Rudolph’s life and example?....****….I wonder what we think is unfair in *our* world?....****….I wonder how we might make sure that our school is a fair place for everyone?....**....we heard last term that we can ‘Be the change you want to see in the world’…..….so our school being a fair place starts with us….. This may not always be easy for us to do, so I’m going to use a prayer asking for God’s help. If you’d like to make the prayer your own, then join in with the Amen at the end.**Slide 10: Prayer** *You might like to point to each body part as you read out the prayer, written for #Faith at Home materials, Spring 2021:* [*#faithathome School resources Primary - Racial Injustice (2).pdf*](file:///C%3A%5CUsers%5Crache%5CDownloads%5C%23faithathome%20School%20resources%20Primary%20-%20Racial%20Injustice%20%282%29.pdf)*)***Loving God, we ask for:** **Listening ears to hear others’ stories,** **Watchful eyes to see who’s left out,** **Outstretched hands to lift up the hurting,** **Quick-to-stand legs to walk alongside,** **Courageous hearts to spur us to action,****And fearless mouths to speak up for what is right.** **Slide 11: Amen**  |
| **Sending: Slide 12****Leader:** As we leave this place and time and go into the day ahead…**All:** ….**may we treat each other fairly, today and every day.** |
| **To listen to / sing:** [Never give up](https://www.popuk.org/membership-songs#block-ad55c89bfbe2ca26319d) (POP UK) or [Together as one](https://www.popuk.org/membership-songs#block-yui_3_17_2_1_1605295413989_4640) (NBD)**To watch:** Hezekiah Walker’s ‘Better’: [Hezekiah Walker New Video "BETTER" - YouTube](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1nrcZQliOGI) |
| **Badge Tick with solid fill\*\*Reflective activity:** Create a class ‘fairness charter’ together: make sure that everyone’s opinions are listened to as you decide what this means for your classroom.Each child can add their name to the charter. Regularly revisit this to check it’s not being forgotten. |

**Some children have to go to school every day during the week**

**Some children are forced to fight in wars**

**Some children cannot go to school because they are girls**

**Some children have to go to bed when their parents tell them to**

**Some children work in factories without being paid**

**Some children have to walk miles just to get water or go to school**

**Some children can’t watch whatever they want on TV**

**Truly unfair**

******

***Paul wrote: ‘Now, in Christ, there is no difference between Jew and Greek... slaves and free men...male and female. You are all the same in Christ Jesus.’…***

**What do you think about Paul’s words? Think about people you know who might have been treated unfairly.**

**Talk about how we can all help to make our world a place where life is fair. How does your class charter help?**

**Commit to taking action yourself the next time you see unfairness happening in your school.**