

# Journeys in the Spirit

## Young People

### Sheet 2.A Gather



## Risk

To laugh is to risk appearing the fool.  
To weep is to risk appearing sentimental.

To reach out for another is to risk involvement.

To show feelings is to risk revealing your true self.

To place your ideas and dreams before a crowd is to risk their loss.

To love is to risk rejection.

To live is to risk dying.

To hope is to risk despair.

To try is to risk failure.

But risks must be taken  
Because one of the greatest dangers in life  
Is to risk nothing.

Those who risk nothing  
Do nothing, achieve nothing, and become nothing.  
They may avoid suffering and sorrow  
But they cannot learn, feel, change, grow, love or even live.  
Chained by their uncertainties, they are slaves.  
They have forfeited their freedom.

Only a person who risks all they cannot keep,  
To gain that which they can never lose....  
Is truly free.

*Anonymous poem*

## Quiz about modern day slavery

- Because the exploitation of children is often hidden, there are no reliable figures about how many children are exploited. But the number is thought to be
  - a) just over 1 million
  - b) up to two million a year**
  - c) in excess of 3 million
- This exploitation happens all over the world: in rich countries and in poor. For example in Mexico,
  - a) more than 16,000 children are involved in prostitution**
  - b) more than 10,000 children are involved in prostitution
  - c) more than 20,000 are involved in prostitution

In Lithuania up to 50% of people in prostitution are children.

- When did Trafficking become illegal?
  - a) 2004
  - b) 1807
  - c) 2003**

Until relatively recently there were no specific anti-trafficking laws in the UK. Trafficking is now illegal under the Sexual Offences Act 2003 and the Asylum & Immigration (treatment of Claimants, etc.) Act 2004.

- There were at least 11 million Africans sold into slavery and exported to the Americas. Today 200 years later how many slaves are there across the world?
  - a) 10 million
  - b) 18.5 million
  - c) 20 million**
- What forms does modern slavery take today – what do we know about it?

Bonded labour, trafficking, forced labour, child labour (includes domestic working, sweatshops, soldiers, forced begging), early & or forced marriage, chattel slavery, religious & ritual slavery, camel jockeys.

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### Sheet 2.B Engage

#### Then and Now

##### Background to the Amistad & Mende Story:

On the morning of June 28, 1839, La Amistad (Friendship) set sail from Havana, beginning an adventure of far-reaching historical consequences. On board the little schooner were 53 Africans who had been abducted from West Africa and sold in violation of international law. Their intended fate was enslavement on plantations down coast from Havana. On the third day out, the Africans revolted and ordered that the ship be guided toward the rising sun back to Africa, but each night the Cubans reversed direction. Zigzagging for two months, the ship eventually was brought by northerly winds and currents to Long Island. The Africans were jailed and charged with piracy and murder. In New York City, a group of Christian abolitionists, headed by Lewis Tappan, formed a defence committee. Attorney Roger Sherman Baldwin, with help from former President John Quincy Adams, took the case to the United States Supreme Court, which ruled that the Africans were free. Quoted from <http://www.tulane.edu/~amistad/amincident.htm>

##### Wondering questions:

- I wonder what part of this account you think is most important
- I wonder what the differences are between the individuals in this account, the Mende People, the Americans, the Spaniards...
- I wonder what the individuals in this account had in common
- I wonder what it was that helped them to communicate

#### Legacies 1



**Quote 1:** "The way in which historical accounts are handed down often presents a partial and distorted story. In the case of the transatlantic slave trade and its' abolition, attention is mainly given to the effort of British 'abolitionists' hiding the crucial part enslaved Africans played in winning their own freedom. Even within the abolitionist campaign, the focus is on a few white leaders rather than the role of former enslaved Africans and the grassroots of the campaign. An insidious and long lasting result is to establish the image of identifiable white heroes defeating the interests of the anonymous villainous white slave traders and slave-masters, with black people as an amorphous mass of victims." Source: <http://www.wdm.org.uk/resources/briefings/other/200years/on01022007.pdf>

**Quote 2:** William Prescott: 'They will remember that we were sold but they won't remember that we were strong; they will remember that we were bought but not that we were brave.'  
Source: <http://www.amostrust.org/news/index.php?pageNo=565&parent=1>

# Journeys in the Spirit

## Young People



### Sheet 2.C

### Engage

### Legacies 2

**Sierra Leone** During the 1700s the country now known as Sierra Leone was an important centre of the slave trade, losing many of its people. However, founded in 1792 by the Sierra Leone Company – which was owned by British anti-slavery activists – the city Freetown was established as home to former slaves who had fought for the British in the American War of Independence. Although rich in minerals, particularly diamonds, today Sierra Leone is ranked as the second poorest country in the world. It has been blighted by corruption and civil war and now faces the imposition of free market economic policies by the IMF and the World Bank. The country's 'Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper', the content of which is heavily influenced by the Bank and is used to determine policy conditionality, contains the usual suite of privatisation (including water), trade liberalisation and clamping down on public spending. These are policies which have undermined development in other parts of Africa. WDM highlighted the way UK aid money is being used to support water privatisation in Sierra Leone.

**Ghana** As one of the main holding forts for slaves, people from the area known as 'the gold coast' (now known as Ghana) suffered horrifically under the slave trade. Today, rich countries and the institutions they control still usurp the rights of Ghana and its people to determine their own future, although by more subtle means than chattel slavery. For example, after having agreed in parliament a perfectly legal import duty of 40% on foreign chicken to protect domestic farmers from subsidised imports, the Ghanaian government was told by the International Monetary Fund to withdraw the tariff increase. The Ghanaian government had little choice but to oblige. The result was the continued import of subsidised poultry from the EU and US undermining demand for local poultry threatening the livelihoods of 400,000 farmers. Their share of the market has dropped from 95% to 11% in less than ten years. Campaigners in Ghana have united with anti-poverty activists from around the world in demanding poor countries be able to use import taxes to protect small farmers and fledgling industries.

**Nigeria** Looking at a map of western Africa drawn in 1729 reveals an area chillingly called 'the slave coast'. Part of this area is now Nigeria and, as its former title suggests, was the original home of many transatlantic slaves. Today the rich world still has a stranglehold on many areas of Nigerian life, whether through governments or institutions such as the International Monetary Fund (IMF) or the World Bank. In 2006 Nigeria paid the UK government \$3 billion (£1.7 billion) in debt repayments as part of a debt cancellation deal, twice as much as the UK government gave in aid to the whole of Africa in 2005. Along with debt repayments that are diverting much needed funds away from areas like health and education, come IMF imposed economic conditions forcing Nigeria to open up its markets and privatise its industries. The hardship that these policies caused Nigerians has led to several anti-IMF demonstrations around the country involving thousands of people.

**Liberia** was founded as an independent nation for freeborn and freed slaves in the early 1800s but the legacy of slavery left its mark as the newly arrived ex-slaves began to rule over the indigenous population leading to tensions between the two groups. Two civil wars and decades of authoritarian rule in the late 20th century (during which time the west continued to lend to Liberia) left over two hundred thousand dead and an economy in tatters – more than three quarters of the population lives on less than \$1 a day. In spite of all these problems, as Liberia attempts to rebuild after the end of the civil war, the debt burden remains. The country owes nearly \$1.5 billion to the IMF, World Bank and African Development Bank and a further \$833 million to bilateral lenders. With much of this bilateral debt racked-up by Liberia's previous autocratic rulers and with current central government revenue only being in the region of \$100 million, requiring repayment is morally reprehensible. Civil society organisations in Liberia are joining with activists around the world to demand immediate cancellation of unpayable and illegitimate debts, without economic policy strings attached.

Source: <http://www.wdm.org.uk/resources/briefings/other/200yearson01022007.pdf>

# Journeys in the Spirit

Young People



Sheet 2.D

Respond

## Then and Now

### Background to Lilya 4 Ever film

This film is an uncompromisingly bleak, devastatingly powerful study of Lilya - a poverty-stricken teenage girl abandoned in a crumbling Russian town when her mother leaves, apparently for the United States, with a man she has met through a dating agency.

Lilya's mother (Lyubov Agapova) announces that there is no place for her in the New World that she has dreamt about. Lilya finds that the abandonment is compounded by her spiteful Aunt Anna (Liliya Shinkaryova), who boots her out of the relatively spacious flat and shunts her into a tiny, squalid slum. Glints of hope, albeit of the most wretched sort, come with her friendship with young Volodya, kicked out of his own home by an abusive father and nursing a crush on Lilya. He moves in with her, and together they build a kind of family.

Lilya nosedives into poverty and stumbles into prostitution. Just when she believes her luck has finally changed with the arrival of the gentle Andrei, she's actually entering another, more horrific stage of her life. He invites her to go with him to Sweden to start a new life, but it's all a cruel ruse to lure her into a life of sexual exploitation.

This film is based primarily on the real life of Dangoule Rasalaite, who ended up in Sweden after her mother took off and went to America. The film follows the events of Dangoule's life pretty closely, with the main exception of the boy Volodya who is entirely fictional.

Sources:

[http://film.guardian.co.uk/News\\_Story/Critic\\_Review/Guardian\\_Film\\_of\\_the\\_week/0,4267,942882,00.html](http://film.guardian.co.uk/News_Story/Critic_Review/Guardian_Film_of_the_week/0,4267,942882,00.html)

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/bbcfour/cinema/features/lilya.shtml>

## Legacies 1

“Abolitionists used a variety of techniques that are familiar to campaigners today, even if they lacked the mass communication methods now available. They educated the public about the atrocities of the slave trade, led sugar boycotts, developed a fair trade brand of sugar, published articles, circulated petitions, held public meetings and lobbied the government. Combined, these tactics shifted public and government opinion.

There is another striking similarity between the time of the abolition campaign and today's climate, the grassroots activists and social movements continue to get overlooked in popular understanding of campaigning. Today, as then, it is usually a few faces, and usually white European faces, at the supposed forefront of a movement who receive most of the publicity.

At the end of the slave trade Wilberforce was hailed as the hero of the abolitionist movement, even though it involved countless people, including many on the ground who took great personal risk. Today, in the fight to end poverty, once again the focus is often on rich white campaigners, while poor people in the global south tend to be portrayed as powerless victims. This ignores the range and depth of resistance against the policies and institutions that disempower people and keep them poor.”

Source: <http://www.wdm.org.uk/resources/briefings/other/200yearson01022007.pdf>

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### Sheet 2.E Respond Legacies 2: Country Fact Cards



#### Sierra Leone

Rich in minerals this country has relied on the mining sector in general, and diamonds in particular, for its economic base.

Name also means Lion Mountains

The president is elected by popular vote to a maximum of two five-year terms. The president's power is checked by the parliament.

Has the world's third largest natural harbour.

400 kilometers / 250 miles of coastline, it is abundant in marine life and is an attractive destination for tourists.

It has one of the world's largest deposits of rutile, a titanium ore used as paint pigment and welding rod coatings.

#### Ghana

Spending on education has varied between 28 and 40 percent of its annual budget in the past decade.

Gold, timber, cocoa, diamond, and manganese exports are major sources of foreign exchange.

In June 2007, it was announced that a huge oilfield worth 600 million barrels of light oil was discovered off the coast.

Has twice the per capita output of the poorer countries in West Africa.

It is considered that this country is a model of African economic recovery and political reform.

This country's waters are rich in fish... including cape hake, grunt, sea bream, tilapia, herring, tuna, mackerel, barracuda.

#### Nigeria

Is a central participant in international oil industry.

Is the tenth most petroleum-rich nation.

Is an important centre for biodiversity.

Is the first African Country to fully pay off her debt (estimated \$30 billion) owed to the Paris Club (a group of financial officials from the richest countries).

Has a population density 139 people per square km.

In 2003, inhabitants were reported to have the highest percentage of happy people in a scientific survey carried out in 65 nations.

#### Liberia

Is one of only two nations in Africa that didn't fall under European domination.

Was established as a place to send freed African American Slaves (this then led to a domination of the original inhabitants).

Had the first female elected head of state in Africa.

Exported over \$300 million in diamonds annually (but this was restricted by the Kimberly Process which has now been rescinded).

Has one of the world's largest national registries of ships.

Traditionally noted for its hospitality, academic institutions, cultural skills, and arts/craft works & has a long, rich history in textile arts.

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## Sheet 2.F Reflect Adinkra Symbols from West Africa



Bese Saka (sack of cola nuts)

symbol of affluence, power, abundance, plenty, togetherness and unity.

The cola nut played an important role in the economic life of Ghana. A widely-used cash crop, it is closely associated with affluence and abundance. This symbol also represents the role of agriculture and trade in bringing peoples together.



Fawohodie (independence)

symbol of independence, freedom, emancipation

"From the expression: Fawohodie ene obre na enam. Literal translation:

Independence comes with its responsibilities."

- from *Cloth As Metaphor* by G.F. Kojo Arthur



Nea Onnim No Sua A, Ohu (He who does not know can know from learning)

symbol of knowledge, life-long education and continued quest for knowledge

Source: *Cloth As Metaphor* by G.F. Kojo Arthur



Sankofa (return and get it)

symbol of importance of learning from the past



Sesa Wo Suban (Change or transform your character)

symbol of life transformation

This symbol combines two separate adinkra symbols, the "Morning Star" which can mean a new start to the day, placed inside the wheel, representing rotation or independent movement.



Wawa Aba (seed of the wawa tree)

symbol of hardiness, toughness and perseverance

The seed of the wawa tree is extremely hard. In Akan culture, it is a symbol of someone who is strong and tough. It inspires the individual to persevere through hardship.



Nyansapo (wisdom knot)

symbol of wisdom, ingenuity, intelligence and patience

An especially revered symbol of the Akan, this symbol conveys the idea that: "A wise person has the capacity to choose the best means to attain a goal. Being wise implies broad knowledge, learning and experience, and the ability to apply such faculties to practical ends."



Mate Masie (What I hear, I keep)

symbol of wisdom, knowledge and prudence

The implied meaning of the phrase "mate masie" is "I understand". Understanding means wisdom and knowledge, but it also represents the prudence of taking into consideration what another person has said.