

THE LION AND THE PANTHER

Citizenship - Level (KS1-4)

A. Read the text below.

Cairo has been my friend since we were 5. Since then, we have played football nearly every day. He is the best I know at tackling. But don't tell him. He doesn't need a bigger head than he already has.

At first, I didn't want to believe I was losing my hearing. I didn't need to hear as Cairo yelled "Goooooool" and did a funny dance. I could lip read well enough to guess what people were saying. Most of the time. It is exhausting though.

"Yes, Cairo," Mr Weaver sighed, in seeing Cairo's hand in the air.

"Sorry, Sir. But please could you remember to face the front of the class? It's harder for Leo to lip read when you face the board."

He winked at me, but I wanted to crawl under the desk in embarrassment. I hate it when Cairo draws attention to me.

"I'm sorry, Leo. Thanks for the reminder, Cairo. Leo, are you wearing your hearing aids?"

My face turned red. I hadn't put them in after the football match at lunch. I shook my head and stayed silent for the rest of the lesson.

We were trudging back home from school when Cairo turned on me and asked what I knew he'd been dying to ask since Mr Weaver's lesson, "Why aren't you wearing them?"

I sighed, "You sound like my mother. They hurt and the background noise makes it hard to concentrate."

"Oh," he replied. And that was that. Things were simple with Cairo. "Football tomorrow night?"

"I can't," I replied. "BSL lesson."

On Saturday morning, to my surprise, Cairo came round, completely unannounced. "Will you teach me?" he asked.

"What?" I replied.

"BSL. Will you teach me? I want to help."

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So that morning, I started with the basics. The alphabet.

“Great! I can spell my name now! C-A-I-R-O, C-A-I-R-O. Does it have to be this long? Every time?”

“No! I’ll give you a sign name. I often use this for you when I’m talking to my family,” I signed ‘Egypt’ to Cairo. I didn’t tell him it also looks like the sign for ‘hug’.

“That’s so cool! It looks like the ‘Wakanda Forever’ sign. You know, from Black Panther? What’s yours?”

I signed ‘lion’ to him.

“Ah, I get it. Leo, lion. Very clever. The lion and the panther, I like it. Now, want to play football?”

B. Practise the following signs.



Lion

Hands make claws in front of the body, one higher than the other. Both hands make small movements down.



Family

Cross index and middle fingers of the primary hand over the index and middle fingers of the secondary hand and make small clockwise circles in front of the body.

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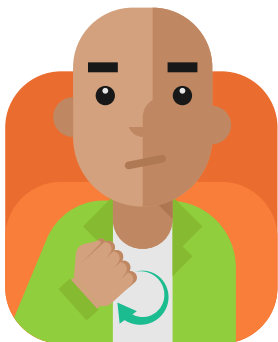
Egypt

Fists cross and tap upper body twice.



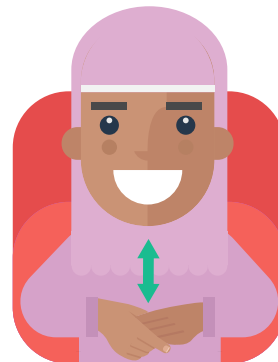
Football

Point both index fingers down and move fingers forwards and backwards alternately by straightening and bending wrists.



Sorry

Make a fist with primary hand and move in a circular shape on the chest.



Friend

Primary hand holds secondary hand. Move up and down several times.

C. Read the text again, signing the words in blue.

Challenge: Use Cairo's and Leo's sign names to sign when they are mentioned in the story.

Discussion: What are the benefits of having a sign name over fingerspelling a name? What makes a good sign name?