

Resources For Australian Teachers of Years 5 To 10



This ideas list is based on the recently published book, *The School that Hope Built*, by Madeleine Kelly. The book explores more than two decades of the story behind The School of St Jude in Arusha, Tanzania. From humble beginnings and founded by Aussie woman, Gemma Sisia, from NSW, by 2023 the school has grown to include three campuses of over 2,000 students including a thriving Beyond St Jude's (BSJ) Tertiary Education Program.

Author Madeleine Kelly has had a very close association with the school over many years and the story is told through her experiences as well as the use of anecdotes from key people involved with the school over that time including teachers and students, parents, benefactors and supporters from around the world.

This simple resource is a list of ideas designed to support Australian teachers of students from Years 5 to 10 across the general capabilities of the curriculum. It also aims to engage parents and promote international crosscultural understanding.

In religious-based schools, many of the ideas could be adapted for Religious Studies lessons.





Reading the book. Where to start.

Read the book to the students over several weeks. This could be a great Friday afternoon activity or alternatively part of a DEAR (Drop Everything and Read) or similar program.

Read as a class text with set individual, pair or group tasks. This could fit within English or Humanities and Social Science lessons.

Offer the book to parents at the school. Many may have a book club that would welcome the books to be borrowed.

Send the books home for families to read together over a term.

Promote the book through school newsletters and websites. Offer copies as raffle prizes or incentives.

General Discussion Questions

[Also appropriate for book clubs]

- What does the book teach us about poverty?
- Having read the book how do you think poverty differs in Australia and Tanzania?
- Why does the book include chapters dedicated to specific people?
- What does each individual story teach us?
- Which story was the most significant to you and why?
- What is interesting about the titles of the chapters?
- What interesting statistics emerged?
- What examples of corruption emerge in the book?
- What does the book teach us about community support?
- What are the key messages from the book?
- What is the meaning of the book's title?
- What do we learn about schools and education in Tanzania?
- How does education differ between Australia and Tanzania?
- What is the significance of the school's motto?
- Why is the school named The School of St Jude?
- Having read the book how do you feel now about privilege?
- What does the story teach us about faith and hope?

**Compile you own questions that you think would generate discussion.
Share them with others.**

Activities



After having read the book, visit the website of The School of St Jude and watch some of the videos. What are your impressions of the school?

If you are old enough to use Social Media, follow The School of St Jude on Instagram and Facebook. Share some of the impressions gained from scrolling through the posts.

As an empathy task imagine you are a student of any age at St Jude's. Write a letter to your class describing your life in Arusha, including a description of your home life, how you were chosen to go to the school and what it's like being there. Read some letters out to the class or pass them around and read them individually. Discussion may wrap up this activity.

Pairs of students can be allocated a chapter each. Each pair reads their chapter then prepares for the class a verbal or visual presentation that explains:

- The essence of the chapter.
- The significance of the title.

As a small group come up with a comparison between your life and a student at St Jude's who is about the same age. Present your ideas to the class either in a table, speech or electronic presentation. Use statistics or pictures from the The School of St Jude website.

Using information from the book and the school website find out the following:

- A list of what you think students at The School of St Jude eat in a day or week.
- How much bulk food has to be purchased and cooked in a week/year.
- Compare it with what you eat in a week/year. How does it differ?

Choose a day when your class will have lunch the same as students at The School of St Jude. Invite parents or your school canteen to help prepare the food such as simple rice, beans, and ugali with water to drink. Calculate the money you've saved on your lunch for that day and donate that to The School of St Jude.

Organise a series of debates using the following topics:

- Poverty prevents educational success.
- Education is the key to alleviate poverty.

(For older students these topics could be addressed in essay format).

Write a 3 minute speech or create a visual promotion for your school newsletter that encourages others to support The School of St Jude.

Make a list of the new words (and their meanings) that you've learned from the book.

Take the Paul Kelly Song lyrics, From Little Things Big Things Grow and rewrite them with The School of St Jude in mind. Sing it if you're a musician. Present it as a group!