

Fredek's story

Read the text and complete the tasks

“Imagine every day of your life was hard work. I found life in Hungary to be just like that. I needed a fresh start. So picture my joy when I heard there were jobs in England where you could get paid really well for doing simple factory work! I asked about the job and was thrilled to be offered it. I travelled with a group. We were nervous about having to live in another country and learn a different language, but mostly we were full of hope.

My dreams quickly turned into a terrible reality. The promise of well-paid work was a lie. Our human traffickers took our passports and threatened to hit us. We were like prisoners because our traffickers completely controlled us.

They paid us about £3 a week to work in takeaways or chicken factories or give out leaflets. They told us the police wouldn't help, and even though I kept meeting people, I didn't know who I could trust to help me. I felt invisible.”

- 1** Research how to get from Hungary to England. Use an atlas or research online.
- 2** What could you buy with £3 a week? Note the items on your extra writing sheet.
- 3** Think of your five favourite belongings, then talk to your partner about how you would feel if those were unfairly taken away.

Connect

Try standing in Fredek's shoes

- 1** Which unfair things in the world do you feel strongly about? On your own, or with a friend, speak to your class for one minute about them.
- 2** List the opportunities you have to speak up for other people in school. Make a list as a class.
- 3** What would you say if you met someone like Fredek who has been paid unfairly or trafficked? Write 3 sentences on your extra sheet.

Fresh start

Read the end of the story and get thinking

“I escaped through a window. I had to end my nightmare by getting away from the people who had captured me. When I saw the open window, the idea came to me. It was risky, but I found my courage, jumped out and ran to the police. I found that the police did want to help. They found me a safe place to stay with The Salvation Army.

Over the next few months, I received medical care, learnt to speak English, and picked up new skills. I met kind people who really cared. Their help let me become more confident and independent. I am now part of a community, and will soon move into a new home and start a paid job to help other people. This has been my fresh start.”

- 1 How would it feel to live in a country with a different language? Discuss as a whole class.
- 2 An open window was a fresh start for Fredek. Draw a picture in the window of what you hope your future will be like.
- 3 One British value is the rule of law. How do the police help us? Talk to a partner.

Take action

Share your creativity

- 1 Discuss as a class how you could tell others, at school or at home, about Fredek's story and human trafficking.
- 2 Could you take action against trafficking by promoting The Salvation Army as one of your chosen charities next year? For ideas, visit www.salvationarmy.org.uk/fundraise-us
- 3 What does 'injustice' mean to you and does it happen where you live? Use your extra sheet or a device to write a paragraph for your school newsletter.

