Belonging: assembly script

At a glance

Story: A Den for Sorrel **For:** Reception and Key Stage 1 (ages 4–7) **Time:** 10–15 mins
You need: the PowerPoint. The same script is in its speaker notes. You don't need any props.
Links: Relationships and health education (primary): caring friendships; respectful, kind relationships. EYFS Personal, Social and Emotional Development: Building Relationships.

Good to know

Be mindful of children who have moved home or whose home life is hard. Keep the focus on feeling welcome at school.

1. Welcome	Welcome, everybody. Today's assembly is about belonging. We're going to hear a story from Thistledown Lane called "A Den for Sorrel".
2. Think about it	Ask: What makes you feel safe and cosy? Let two or three children share. Say: in today's story, Sorrel the fox cub doesn't have anywhere cosy to sleep.
3. The story, part 1	Read: Sorrel came down the wall with leaves all over his back. He had slept in a scratchy hedge. Sorrel did not have a home of his own.
4. The story, part 2	Read: "We'll build you one," said Bramble. Mam told them to build it on the hedge path, by the big mossy stone. The hedge keeps the wind off.
5. The story, part 3	Read: Bramble gave her old blue blanket for inside. Lilly fetched sticks, and more sticks, and more sticks!
6. The story, part 4	Read: Bramble leaned the sticks together like a tent. Moss tucked soft green moss into every gap. Then they put big golden leaves on top.
7. The story, part 5	Read: Bramble put the blanket inside. "Sorrel, it's yours," she said. Sorrel looked at it for a long time. "Nobody's ever made me anything before," he said.
8. The story, part 6	Read: That night, the rain came. In the morning, the friends ran down to the den. A sleepy orange face poked out. Sorrel was dry and warm! He said it was better than a castle.

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9. Talk together	Give children half a minute with a partner for each question, then take a few answers. 1. What did each friend do to help? Listen for: Bramble gave her blanket and leaned the sticks together, Lilly fetched the sticks, Moss filled the gaps. 2. Why do you think Bramble gave away her old blanket? Listen for: she was too big for it, and Sorrel needed something soft. 3. How can we help somebody new to feel they belong here? Listen for: smile, learn their name, ask them to play.
10. Have a go	With a partner, put your fingertips together to make a roof. Now wiggle your other fingers like pitter-patter rain. Did your roof hold? Say: "It held!"
11. Remember	Read it together, slowly. Ask the children to say it back to you.
12. Quiet moment	Invite everybody to sit still, close their eyes if they would like to, and think quietly for half a minute. You can add your own school's prayer or reflection here.
13. This week	Set the challenge for the week. Make somebody feel welcome. Ask them to join in. You could ask in your next assembly who had a go.
14. Goodbye	Say goodbye. If you have time, watch the whole episode free at https://thistledownlane.co.uk/episode-a-den-for-sorrel (no adverts, no sign-in and no tracking).

The lesson

A home isn't the sticks, or the leaves, or even the blanket. It's who helped you build it.

If you have longer

Watch the whole episode free at **thistledownlane.co.uk/episode-a-den-for-sorrel** before the questions. There are no adverts, no sign-in and no tracking.

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