When We Feel Frightened: assembly script

At a glance

Story: The Something in the Woods **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; general wellbeing. EYFS Personal, Social and Emotional Development: Self-Regulation.

Good to know

Bramble goes to look with her friends, after talking to Mam. If children ask, make clear that in real life we tell a grown-up and go with them, and we never touch an animal that is hurt or stuck.

1. Welcome	Welcome, everybody. Today's assembly is about feeling frightened. We're going to hear a story from Thistledown Lane called "The Something in the Woods".
2. Think about it	Ask: What does it feel like when you are frightened? Let two or three children share feelings in their bodies: a fast heart, a wobbly tummy. Say: everybody feels frightened sometimes. Today's story is about a scary something that wasn't what it seemed.
3. The story, part 1	Read: Bramble and Moss were counting leaves on Thistledown Lane. Then Lilly came down the wall very fast. "I've seen it! In the woods!" she said.
4. The story, part 2	Read: Lilly said it was enormous, with big teeth. But really, she only saw something red behind a tree. Old Wren had heard a snuffling at night.
5. The story, part 3	Read: The story got bigger and bigger. By dinner time, it was the size of a cow, and it could open gates!
6. The story, part 4	Read: Mam said, "You'll not know what a thing is by talking about it." She gave Bramble three honey buns. So the friends went to the woods. Moss found a big pawprint. He wanted to go home.
7. The story, part 5	Read: Bramble looked behind the tree. There was a little fox cub. His back leg was stuck in some old wire. He was shaking.
8. The story, part 6	Read: Bramble got the wire loose. Lilly held the root back. Moss gave him a honey bun. They took him home to Mam. His name was Sorrel.

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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 the friends think was in the woods? Listen for: something enormous; by dinner time, the size of a cow. 2. What was it really? Listen for: a little fox cub who was stuck and frightened. 3. Why did the story get bigger and bigger? Listen for: everybody added a bit more each time they told it.
10. Have a go	Make your arms as big as a horse, and then as big as a cow. Now make them as small as a little fox cub. Say together: "It's nearly always smaller than the story."
11. Remember	Read the slide together, then add: and if you're ever frightened, always tell a grown-up you trust. They can look with 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	Read it together. Remind children which grown-ups they can talk to at school.
14. Goodbye	Say goodbye. If you have time, watch the whole episode free at https://thistledownlane.co.uk/episode-the-something-in-the-woods (no adverts, no sign-in and no tracking).

The lesson

If you're ever frightened of something, go and look at it. It's nearly always smaller than the story. And it's nearly always more frightened than you are.

If you have longer

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

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