

IF A PLACE COULD BE MADE – Study Guide

The Daly Family Collective (Diana Daly, Louise Moyes, Anne Troake)

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Kitty and Daniel Daly of Riverhead, St. Mary's Bay, Newfoundland had twelve children. Six of those children were born with a condition called skeletal dysplasia. Skeletal dysplasia means that a person's bones grow differently. Most people with skeletal dysplasia have shorter arms and legs than other people and sometimes this means that the person has trouble walking or running or using their hands.

In the past, people with skeletal dysplasia were called dwarves or little people. These days many people with skeletal dysplasia prefer to be called "persons of short stature".

These six brothers and sisters, Mike, Ann, Rose, Joe, Mary and Cack lived together their entire lives. Between them they had many skills. When one person was not able to do things, other people helped them do it or helped them to

innovate - to find a way to do the things they wanted to do on their own by doing it differently. The six all helped each other and this is how they managed to live independently.

In the play you will see, you will learn about some of those six brothers and sisters. Their great-niece, songwriter Diana Daly, along with her family, love telling stories about their aunts and uncles, so Diana worked with Louise Moyes who is also in the play and with Anne Troake to make a show with songs, dances and stories to celebrate and remember them.

Kitty and Daniel Daly

Kitty and Daniel Daly lived in River Head, St. Mary's bay. They were very devout Catholics who had a deep faith in God. As Catholics, they believed that God wanted them to have many children. Their great-granddaughter Diana Daly, who is one of the stars of the show, imagined what it was like when Kitty and Daniel fell in love and she wrote a song about it. These are the words to that song:

*There's a wonderful bigness to you maid
Kitty darling Kitty dear
lets fill our house with children
and always keep them near*

*There's a wonderful lightness to you dear
Kitty darlin Kitty dove
what an honour to call you Mo'cuishle
for my heart pulses with your love*

*will you fast your hand to mine girl
Kitty Darling Kitty sweet
I'll protect you for life if you'll be my wife
til the circle is complete*

*I'll give you a garden I'll build you a house
Kitty Darling Kitty Dear
We'll practice our faith*

*with a family so great
and we'll always keep them near.*

Between 1916 and 1942 they had twelve children, six of whom had skeletal dysplasia.



When they grew up, these six brothers and sisters all lived together and formed a special sort of family. They lived in St. John's but spent their summers all together in St. Mary's. Diana wrote a song inspired by all of the stories of the fun her aunts and uncles had during those summers, that she and Louise sing in the play.

Headin out the road to Saint Mary's

*Oh come on Mike Come on Joe
wash yer face and hairies
come on Ann! Come on Rose! we're going to Saint Mary's*

Hurry Mary! Pack the bags

Cack'll call the taxi

crate the chickens, don't forget the eggs

we're heading out the roooooaddddd to Saint Mary's

Rose is on the veranda cutting up her flowers

Mary and Kay are sewing clothes to pass away the hours

Joe is scheming up a plan to give everyone a thrill

Mike is writing poetry for Theresa and Bill

Summers here lots of fresh air

our friends'll have lots of queries

bout winter in town with the snow swirlin round

the Ryan's and the Cleary's

Bless the garden, bless the house

don't be so contrary

we're gonna play cards and look like movie stars

in the lovely summer nights in Saint Mary's

Rose is on the veranda cutting up her flowers

Mary and Kay are sewing clothes to pass away the hours

Joe is scheming up a plan to give everyone a thrill

Mike is writing poetry for Theresa and Bill

Here's bread in your pocket on the way to the dance

*to ward off the faeries
 cause there's magic in the air
 they'll romance you far from here
 all along the shore of Saint Mary's*

*We'll dance all night under the stars so bright
 to the diddle ei di dairies
 swing all around feet'll hardly touch the ground
 in the room in the back of the house in Saint Mary's*

*After the sun has set
 Good night, god bless*

*don't forget to say your prayeries
 when you go to sleep, your soul he'll keep/
 in God's loving arms of Saint Mary's*

People loved to visit the Daly family because they made each visitor feel special and respected. Many cousins, nieces, nephews and members of their community even brought their babies to be blessed by the brothers and sisters.

Here is a brief introduction to each of them.

Mike

Mike was the oldest of the children born with skeletal dysplasia. Mike was an intellectual and philosopher – what is called an “autodidact” – a person who studies on their own without anyone making them do it.



He read many complicated and difficult books and had friendships with other people who also had a lot of knowledge. Many important people came to him for advice. Mike ran his own business, a store in St. John's and he was also a skilled tailor, who made suits for many of the men in his family. Besides all of that, Mike was a carpenter, and a fisherman and he took care of the family finances even though everybody helped make sure that entire the household had good food, nice clothes and a warm house.

Ann

Ann was the second oldest of the six. She was the disciplinarian, she was pious, she was the second mother when the children were growing up.

Ann was very good at organizing events and taking care of other people. She cared for her nieces and nephews, including Diana, and she also nursed her grown up siblings and cousins when they were sick. Anne made her own clothes and did many household chores. She was strong and wise and was very good at getting people to cooperate and to work together to get big jobs done and to make things better for everyone. Many people confided their secrets to Ann because they knew that she was trustworthy. Ann could not walk easily and when she was a young woman she used a child's pram as a carriage to go to dances and to help her get around. She was a devout Catholic who made pilgrimages to religious shrines outside of Newfoundland.



Rose



Rose was the third oldest and the smallest of the siblings. She could not walk after she was 7 years old and so other family members helped her to get around the house when she needed to.



Rose was quiet and gentle. She was well known in her community for her crafts, reusing pictures from greeting cards to make decorations for their house and to give to other people.

Joe



Joe was the mischief-maker. He was a musician, a carpenter, and a fisherman. He was known for coming up with good ideas for pranks to make the day more

fun and he loved to play tricks on his friends and family. He had a sharp mind and an outstanding memory, especially for sports statistics! He practiced his accordion every day and played for many dances. The people of Riverhead were used to his music echoing across the harbor.

Mary and Cack

Mary and Cack were the two youngest girls with skeletal dysplasia. They spent all of their time together and even talked to you at the same time!



They loved to be social and they especially loved to go out and hear Irish Newfoundland music. Lots of famous musicians were their friends and sometimes those musicians would come to the family house to play, because they like Mary, Cack and their brothers and sisters so much.

Pre-show discussion and activities

Below is a list of themes and concepts from *If a Place Could be Made*. What is the meaning of the each word?

Can you think of an example of it?

A lot of these terms interrelate, can you provide an example of some that interrelate and how?

Difference
Disability
Inclusion
Independence
Cooperation
Innovation
Family
Community
Respect
Faith
Self-Esteem
Intellectual
Pilgrimage

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Quiz:

Match the theme/concept to its definition:

1. Difference
2. Disability
3. Inclusion

4. Independence
5. Cooperation
6. Innovation
7. Family
8. Community
9. Respect
10. Self-Esteem
11. Intellectual
12. Exclusion
13. Autodidact
14. Pilgrimage
15. Faith

- A. Confidence in one's own worth or abilities; self-respect.
- B. A distinguishing characteristic; distinctive quality, feature. Being not like others. A point or way in which people or things are not the same.
- C. To make someone a part of a group or and activity.
- D. A group of people who live in the same area; a group of people who have the same interests or experiences; a group of people living in the same place or having a particular characteristic in common; a feeling of fellowship with others, as a result of sharing common attitudes, interests, and goals.
- E. Not being treated as suitable or good enough, to not be admitted into a group.
- F. To recognize the worth of a person or thing.
- G. A new idea, device, or method.
- H. A group of people who are related to each other, a group that consists of parents and their children or a bigger group of related people including grandparents, aunts, uncles, cousins, etc. a group of related people who live together in one house.; a group of related people including people who lived in the past.
- I. A person with the power or faculty of the mind by which she or he knows or understand; a person with a strong ability for thinking and acquiring knowledge.

J. Freedom from outside control or support

K. An act or instance of working or acting together for a common purpose or benefit

L. An impairment that may be physical, cognitive, intellectual, mental, sensory, developmental, or some combination of these that results in restrictions on an individual's ability to participate in their everyday society.

M. Confidence or trust in a person or thing; belief that is not based on proof; belief in God or in the doctrines or teachings of religion.

N. A journey or search of moral or spiritual significance. Typically, it is a journey to a shrine or other location of importance to a person's beliefs and faith

O. A person who has learned a subject without the benefit of a teacher or formal education; a self-taught person.

(Answers page 14)

Disabilities and inclusion: discussion points (these can be used before or after seeing the show)

- Do you know anyone with a disability? Can you think of some adaptations so that person can be included?
- Name three things about yourself that are different from everyone else. Name three things about yourself that are the same as everyone else.
- As a class, make a list of all of the ways everyone is the same as everyone else. Make a list of ways everyone is different from everyone else. Which list is more important? Why?
- Do you ever wish to be someone or something you're not? Explain how this can be both a positive and negative way of thinking.

- Have you ever made fun of someone who's different? Why? What makes someone different to you? Do you or did you, make fun of them because you were fearful or not accustomed to their differences? Explain.

Stories and the Arts

Do know any stories about your relatives who are no longer alive? Do you know any stories about family members you've never met? Can you think of any stories about your family that you have heard different people tell, or that you have told yourself?

If a Place Can Be Made is a show with dances and songs that tell Diana's family stories about her aunts and uncles. Can you think of a family story that you could tell to an audience? Think of ways you can act out your story. Can you tell the story without words? Can you imagine your story as a song?

Teachers: please work with your students to select one or two stories which we will use as the basis for our staging and music creation workshops. The theme of the stories would ideally be on Family or Friends and Inclusion. Please send us your selections a minimum of two days ahead of our scheduled visit to your school.

Workshop Story Theme examples:

- You had a broken leg and your friend had their birthday party at your house instead of you having to go out to the birthday party
- A new student came to your school and someone makes fun of them, but then the rest of the class stands up for them

- Your grandmother made a stool for her sister who was shorter, so she could reach the counter
- Someone from a different religion came to your school so you decided celebrate their religious holiday at school.

Post show questions

Rose could not use her hands very well. How did she manage to do her crafts anyway?

Ann could not walk long distances but she loved to go to dances. How did she travel longer distances?

What did Joe do to make mischief?

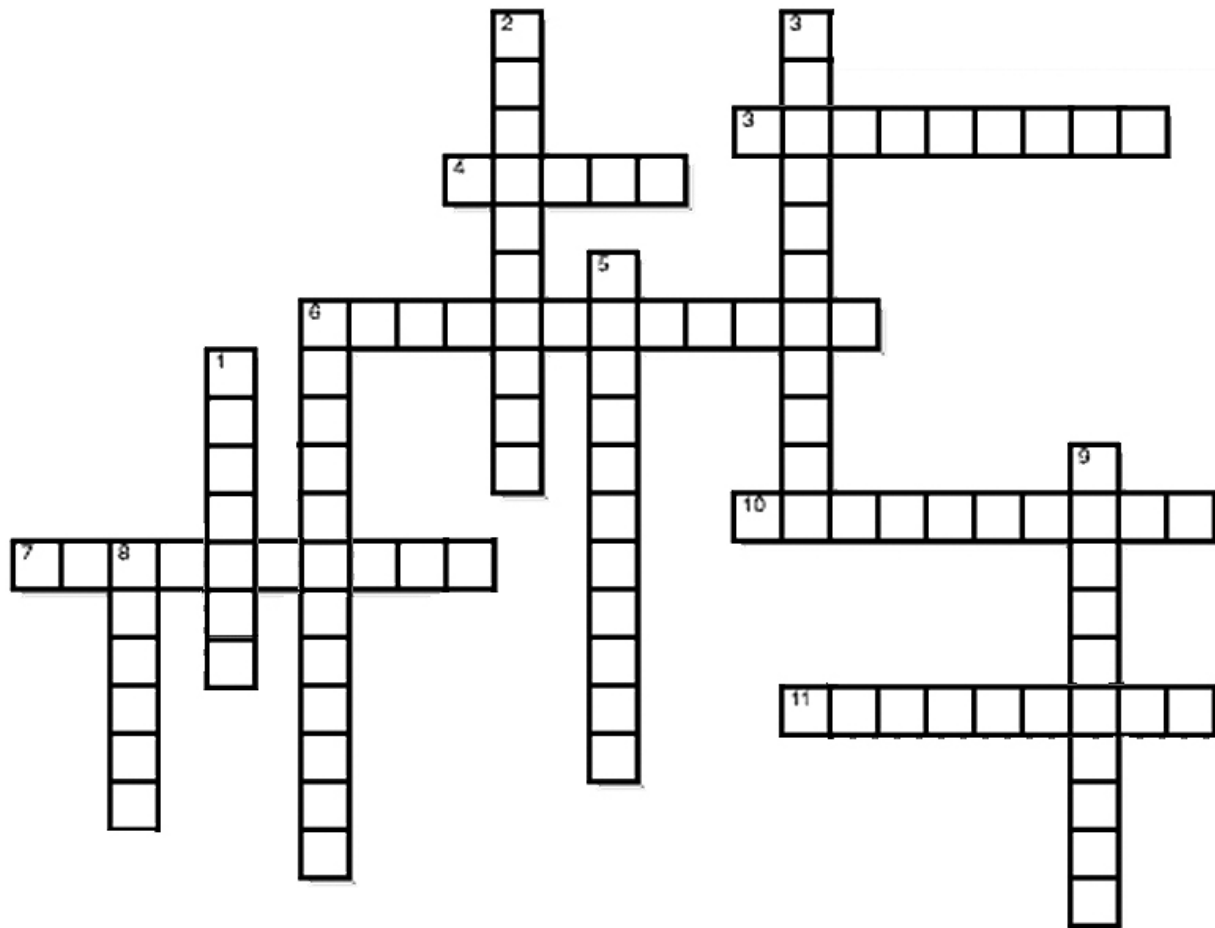
Name two ways the siblings helped each other.

Name two ways the siblings helped other people.

What was Mary and Cack's favourite kind of music?

Match the definitions answers (pages 10-11): 1 B, 2 L, 3 C, 4 J, 5 K, 6 G, 7 H, 8 D, 9 F, 10 A, 11 I, 12 E, 13 O, 14 N, 15 M

Concepts/Keyword Crossword



Across

3. A group of people who live in the same area, have the same interests or who have a particular characteristic in common.
4. Confidence or trust in a person or thing, belief that is not based on proof.
6. A person with a strong ability for thinking and acquiring knowledge.
7. A point or way in which people or things are not the same.
10. A new idea, device, or method.
11. When you make someone a part of a group or an activity.

Down

1. To recognize the worth of a person or thing.
2. An impairment that results in restrictions on an individual's ability to participate in their everyday society.
3. When people work together for a common purpose or benefit.
5. Confidence in one's own worth or abilities; self-respect. (4-6)
6. Freedom from outside control or support.
8. A group of people who are related to each other.
9. A journey to a shrine or other location of importance to a person's beliefs and faith.