

Let's Look ...



STORY

'Ms Nolan's Last Day'

Begin by asking the children if they know of any teachers who have left the school – perhaps a teacher the children had themselves in Junior Infants/P1 or Senior Infants/P2 has since left.

Then tell them that you would like to tell a story about a teacher called Ms Nolan, who left her school, having worked there for many years. Read 'Ms Nolan's Last Day'.

'Ms Nolan's Last Day'



It was Ms Nolan's last day at school. She had been principal of Greenfield Primary School for ten years and before that she had taught different

classes in the school for over twenty years. Everybody loved Ms Nolan. She had been a great principal and many wonderful things had happened while she was running the school. But now it was time for her to retire.

Everybody wanted to give Ms Nolan the best send off that they possibly could. The pupils,



staff and some parents gathered together in the school hall for a special prayer service to say goodbye to her on her last day. Three children sat in the

front row and they chatted nervously to one another. The three, Salma, Muireann and Eli, had been chosen to give Ms Nolan some presents at the end of the prayer service. These three friends were always together: 'Whenever



you see Salma, you can be sure Muireann and Eli are close by!' Ms Nolan would always say.

Soon the prayer service began. There were some readings from the Bible which had been chosen specially for the day and everybody joined in singing the hymns. At the end of the prayer service, Salma, Muireann and Eli presented the gifts to Ms Nolan.

Then Mr Foley, the vice-principal, took to the microphone. 'Ms Nolan is a special person,' he said. 'She is a wonderful teacher and a great friend. This is her last day.

This is the last time many of us will get a chance to listen to her. And so for one final time, I'd like to invite Ms Nolan to speak to us.' Mr Foley moved aside and, as he did, there was a loud round of applause. Then silence descended on the hall and everybody waited with bated breath to hear what Ms Nolan's last words would be.



ONLINE

Teacher Tip:

Ensure that you reinforce the three best friends' names, Salma, Muireann and Eli, since these children will appear again in seasonal lesson 5: Inter-Religious Education Lesson.

Having read the story, check for understanding using questions such as, 'What were the names of the three friends who were chosen to present the gifts to Ms Nolan?' Then dig deeper using these or similar questions:

- How do you think Ms Nolan felt on her last day of school? Do you think she was sad or happy? Why?
- What kind of a person was Ms Nolan? Do you think the children and teachers were sorry to see her leave? Why? Do you remember a time

when someone you knew had to leave? It might have been a friend or teacher in school or a family member. How did you feel when they left?

- Would people have wanted to hear what Ms Nolan was going to say? Why or why not?
- What do you think her last words? Let's Think-Pair-Share