

Teacher Resource for *The Fire Keeper's Girls*

by L P Hansen

Using NZ Curriculum Key Competencies

CULTURAL DIVERSITY Years 8-13



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TEACHER TAKEAWAYS & BONUS

THINKING

Choose **two** of the twenty five role models listed at the end of the book whose strengths and passions you admire. Why have you chosen them? Can you see how they reflect your own attitudes and interests? Discuss your answers with a partner or in a small group.



Berta Caceres, Honduran environmental activist, defied three national corporations plus the World Bank, all aiming to breach international law and dam the Gualcarque River.

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RELATING TO OTHERS

Find an example in the text of Gemma or Alice being helped to grow by

- Listening to a different point of view
- Negotiating to arrive at a compromise
- Facing up to the adverse consequences of their actions
- Learning about another culture
- Being willing to share ideas

Which of these abilities do you find most useful at this stage of your life? Discuss your answers with a partner or in a small group.

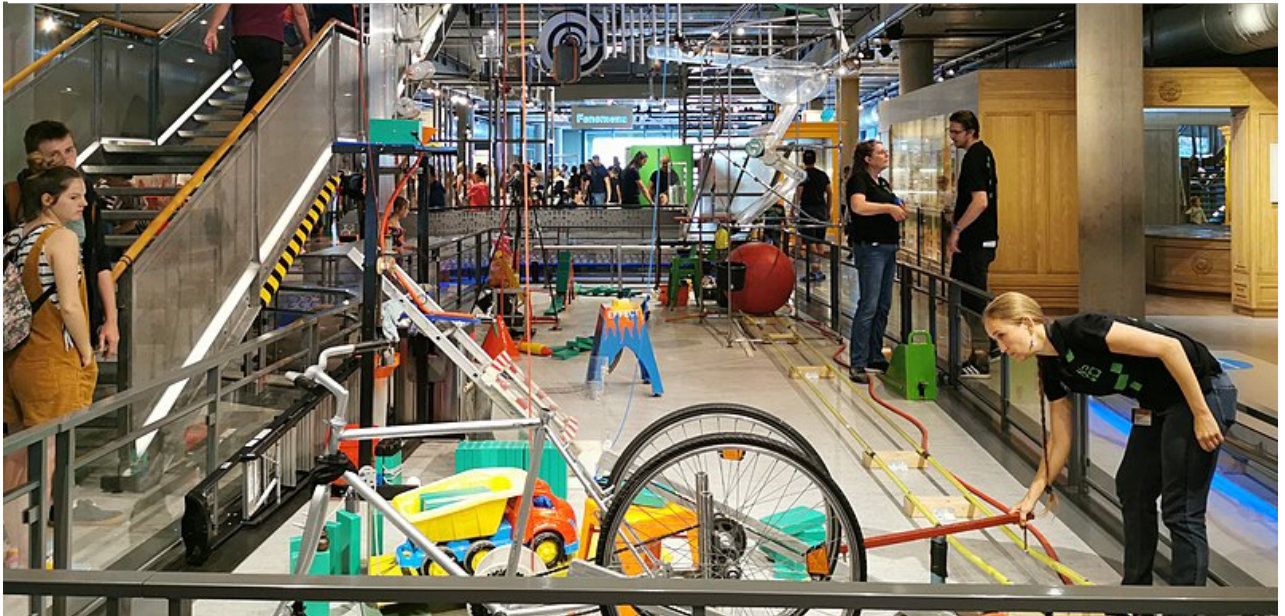


LANGUAGE, SYMBOLS AND TEXT

Create a list for yourself of two outings you'd like to go on with Samantha and two new skills you'd like to learn from other players in ***The Game***.

OR

Design a logo for ***The Game*** that could be turned into a brand and used for lapel badges, letterhead and a secret sign between players.



Nemo Science Museum

MANAGING SELF

What do you know about your own learning style? Do you learn by listening, seeing or through practical actions. Do you learn about yourself through self-reflection or by talking things over with others? Which character, Gemma or Alice, learns most like you? Which positive learning skill do you most appreciate in yourself? Discuss with a partner or in a small group.



PARTICIPATING AND CONTRIBUTING

The twenty five role models faced many negative consequences due to their lifestyle choices. Identify two of them who might find life difficult in this country even today.

Why do you think certain groups hold hostile and defensive attitudes towards others?

OR

Locate two organisations that support ending cultural discrimination. Is there one that you could join? Discuss with a partner or in a small group your own preferred way of participating and contributing to one of these groups. What would prevent you?

What skills could you offer? What skills would you be willing to learn?



Helen Sharman, Britain's first astronaut in 1991, was already forgotten by the British media when in 2016 they claimed Tim Peake would be the first Brit into space.

TEACHER TAKEAWAYS

1. Using appropriate YA novels to teach about cultural diversity allows students immediate **ACCESS** to varied, challenging multi-cultural situations.
2. YA literature gives students a chance to **IDENTIFY** with characters from different cultures and to cultural inequities that young people can relate to.

3. **DISCUSSION** YA novels provide a range of attitudes to cultural diversity that students can discuss and actively pursue/explore in different ways.
4. **GROWTH** Just as YA characters grow and change through the challenges they face in the stories, students can arrive at fresh understandings of their own thinking through critical study and discussion of YA novels.

BONUS

Find **Resources for further study** at the end of *The Fire Keeper's Girls*.



Te Puea Herangi (1883-1952)

L P Hansen is available for author-in-schools visits, directly or through ReadNZ.

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