

Teacher's Guide to **Little Red Dot Fights Back**

Little Red Dot Fights Back is written for children who are six to seven years old, to help them understand what resilience means – which is the ability to remain strong, physically and mentally, and even bounce back in the face of adversity. A related sub-theme in the story is the need for vigilance.

The story is about how the little red dots battle some worms, who first appear as visitors passing through, but soon become a permanent menace. Resilience is shown in the way the dots come together and keep working at finding a solution despite two failed attempts to resolve the problem of the invading worms. It also portrays mental toughness as the dots are not overcome by the problem at hand. They do not sit back to lament their misfortunes but quickly take charge of the situation. The importance of vigilance is learnt indirectly in **Little Red Dot Fights Back** – when the little red dots failed to be vigilant and allowed the visiting worms to eat away their world, their lives are thrown into chaos.

Little Red Dot Fights Back shows aspects of what it means to be resilient: mastery of fear and using ordinary talents and resources to overcome challenges in a creative and innovative way. The worms represent suspicious characters or going-ons in our midst that require us to keep a watchful eye on. The devastation left by the worms (including the explosions) alludes to the work of terrorists in real life whose primary intent is to disrupt and destroy lives. The “glow paint” solution is a reference to looking for creative and innovative solutions, even in the midst of crisis. The little red dots refer to us as individuals living in a community that support and strengthen the growth of one another. Survival for the little red dots depends on their resilience at the community level and their ability to face challenges as a team.

The lessons learnt from the story can be applied to other crises or scenarios that can befall Singapore, e.g., bird flu, SARS or a sustained period of economic woes. The key takeaway – if we have the will and determination, we can overcome any crisis, be it a terrorist attack, a deadly viral disease outbreak or a prolonged economic downturn.

The story and post-reading activities, which are not meant to be prescriptive, may be conducted in the classroom in one class period. Teachers are free to pick any of the seven proposed activities based on their assessment of its suitability for their students. Teachers are also encouraged to use alternative ways to explain the concepts of resilience, vigilance and unity.

