# Love At Home

## THE RIGHT TO A FAMILY

**AGE**: 11 – 16 years

**LEARNING POINTS**

1. The family is the basic unit of society.
2. Family units usually make us stronger no matter what their make-up or configuration.
3. Families have a right to be helped and protected by the government if necessary.
4. No one should force you to get married if you don't want to.

**MATERIALS**

- Talking Stick
- Class Roll
- Class Rules
- Song: This Little Light of Mine
- Balkissa: The Girl Who Said No to Marriage (from the previous lesson)
- Story: Taliana and the King
- Image of Taliana
- Props for the story of Taliana if desired (scarf, crown made from a strip of paper, bread)
- Article 16, UDHR

THE UNIVERSAL DECLARATION OF
## Human Rights

THE RIGHT TO A FAMILY

**Article 16**

1. Men and women of full age, without any limitation due to race, nationality or religion, have the right to marry and to found a family. They are entitled to equal rights as to marriage, during marriage and at its dissolution.
2. Marriage shall be entered into only with the free and full consent of the intending spouses.
3. The family is the natural and fundamental group unit of society and is entitled to protection by society and the State.

*SIMPLIFIED*

1. *You have the right to marry and start a family.*
2. *Nobody should force you to marry.*
3. *The family is the basic unit of society, and government should protect it.*

THE CONVENTION ON THE
## Rights of the Child

THE RIGHT TO A FAMILY

**Article 9**
You have the right to be brought up by your parents unless it is not safe or not possible.

**Article 20**
You have the right to special protection and help if you can't live with your parents.

**WELCOME** (5 minutes)
*Before class begins,* display the mini posters where everyone can see them.
Greet the children warmly by name and show them where to sit.

**Song: This Little Light of Mine**
Sing with great delight!

**REVIEW and WARM-UP: The Human Chair** (10 minutes)
Ask: Who remembers how to make a human chair?
(See the preceding lesson.)

Help the students get into their groups quickly.

Ask: What are the rules that must be followed for us to be safe?
(Include no bouncing or hitting, moving carefully, watching out for each other.)

After everyone has been a chair or a passenger, have them return to their seats.

Ask: What did you think about this time as you made the chair?

- When we did this before, how did we say that this is like working together in families? (Cooperation and helping each other is what we do in families, too.)

- Was there anything that helped you feel stronger?

Show image of Balkissa and newspaper article.

Ask: Who remembers our news story from last time about Balkissa and her family?

- What parts of her story were you able to share with friends or family members?

**INTRODUCTION** (5 minutes)

Say: Today I'm going to tell you a story about another very brave young woman.

- Last week, we talked about "evolving capacities," or the way you grow and learn about things – things such as making good decisions, learning to be courteous and to find ways to help other people.

- See if you can find any evolving capacities that might have made a difference in this young woman's life.

**Read: Taliana and the King**
Show image of Taliana and tell the story. When you finish the story, do the activity below.

**Activity: Drama in the Court** (10 minutes)
Say: We're going to do a play about Queen Taliana and King Marco.

- Who do we need in our story?
  (King Marco, Taliana, servants, mother, father, sisters, farmer, trumpet players, villagers, mayor)

- What are some important things the characters might say? (Students decide.)
- What should we use for props? (simple things such as a scarf for Taliana, circle headband made out of a long strip of paper for the king, rock to represent the bread)
- Read the story again, this time with the students acting out the parts and saying the characters' lines. The participants can help each other if necessary.

**DEVELOP** (5 minutes)

After the applause, ask:

- What do we learn from this story?
- What stood out to you about the kind of person Taliana was?
- What about her father? Did he try to force Taliana to get married?
- How was the farmer's family protected? (By the king, who was the government and should have been making sure that all families were protected.)
- Is there anything else that you noticed about the king? (He liked to see goodness in other people, especially in Taliana, and he wanted to protect his people.)

Guide the youth to include things such as:

- Courage to stand up for other people, especially when rights are being violated.
- Courtesy and good manners with other people.
- Love at home makes everyone happy.
- Kind ways and words are always important.

Say: Roberta, would you please hold Article 16 for us while we all read it together.

> *You have the right to marry and start a family.*
> *Nobody should force you to marry.*
> *The family is the basic unit of society, and government should protect it.*

Ask: How does this article about marriage and family from the *Universal Declaration of Human Rights* remind us of our story about Taliana and King Marco?
(Taliana and the king both got to choose who they wanted to marry, and the king protected the farmer's family.)

- What about evolving capacities? Did you see anything in the story that showed Taliana's evolving capacities? (Accept all answers.)

- Were there some things that she could do because she was older and had learned to be kind and caring about other people?

- What did she do that demonstrated her courage?

**CONCLUSION** (5 minutes)

Explain: Even though we are all free to choose how to act, we don't always know the things we should do. That's one of the reasons we have families, to learn how to act in different situations.

- As you grow, you will have the capacity to do more and more, and make more and more of your own decisions.

Ask: Taliana was very kind and courteous to other people. Where do you think she learned how to treat other people? (From her family and her experience as she grew older.)

- Did her family force her to act that way, or did she decide for herself?

Say: You, as you grow, will have the maturity to do more and more and to make more and more of your own decisions. Part of that is learning how to control yourself.

- You are the only one who can control your thoughts and actions and reactions to life's situations. You are in charge of your own inner peace.

Ask: What makes you feel peace and happiness?
(Take answers from the group such as helping each other with chores, speaking and hearing kind words from other family members, quietly doing something that makes someone else feel happy, etc.)

**CHALLENGE**

Say: This week let's do three things:

1. Think about what kind of family you would like to have someday. If you can, write it down.

2. Think about what kinds of capacities you might develop to make your family happy. Also, write those down.

3. This week, practice making your home a happy place of peace, no matter how difficult it might be. Telling your family about the story of Taliana might make them happy, too.

Be sure that all the props are returned to their owners or where they belong.

**FACILITATOR NOTES AND REFLECTIONS**

How do I feel about what happened with today's lesson?

What would or should I do differently next time?

(Adapted from Keating-Chetwynd, Sarah, ed., *How All Teachers Can Support Citizenship and Human Rights Education: A Framework for the Development of Competences.* Council of Europe, 2008, p. 61.)

## The Girl Who Said 'No' To Marriage

One day when she was 12 years old, Balkissa Chaibou came home from school and learned that her father had promised her as a bride to her cousin when she turned 16. Balkissa had no say in the matter, and she would have to stop school and start a family when they got married.

Balkissa is from Niger, where child marriage is not uncommon. Her parents were poor and they had five daughters, so they were in favor of the marriage since that meant one less child to feed.

But Balkissa loved school, and did not want to marry her cousin and stop going to school. When she turned 16, and the wedding preparations began. Balkissa decided to fight for her rights - even if that meant taking her own family to court.

Her mother could not help Balkissa because women have no power in Niger. So Balkissa went to her father and agreed to marry her cousin if she didn't have to live with him until after she graduated from college. But her father couldn't help her, either, because in his family's tradition, the older brother could make decisions for the children of his younger siblings. And her father's older brother was her uncle, the man who was the father of her cousin that she was supposed to marry. Her uncle refused to even consider Balkissa's request. So the wedding preparations continued.

Next Balkissa asked her school principal for help. He sent her to an organization that helped her by taking legal action against her father and uncle for defying one of her human rights by forcing her into a marriage she did not want.

When they went to court, however, Balkissa's uncle denied the accusation, and claimed it had all been a misunderstanding, so the case was dropped. Balkissa thought she had won!

But then her uncle threatened to kill her unless she married her cousin! Balkissa quickly escaped to a women's shelter. Finally the uncle realized he might end up in jail, so he gave up and went back to his own country. Balkissa was able to go home in safety.

Her mother and father now want nothing to do with forced marriage.

Balkissa speaks to school groups, as well as to tribal chiefs. She explains that forced early marriage is often linked to terrible violence in marriage. It is also true that young mothers who have babies at such an early age frequently die because their bodies are not yet ready for pregnancy.

Balkissa is now in medical school and knows that her family is counting on her to succeed. She encourages other girls to follow her example. "I'm not saying don't marry," she tells a group of schoolgirls. "But choose the right moment to do so." She tells them to study as hard as they can even though it's hard. "Studies are your only hope,"

(Adapted: Sarah Buckley, BBC News, http://www.bbc.com/news/magazine-35464262)

## *Taliana and the King*

One beautiful morning as King Marco stood on his balcony, his gaze was captivated by a young woman in the market square below. She moved gracefully among the shoppers, chatting kindly with villagers and merchants alike as she bought food for her family.

The king watched for her in the days that followed. She always seemed surrounded by family, and his heart beat faster every time he spotted her. He noticed she was as lovely as she was kind and thoughtful. Finally, he sent **a servant** to find out about her. Soon all was revealed: her name was **Taliana** and she came from a very loving family. However, they were only peasants, but the king was determined to meet her anyway.

Disguised as **a baker**, he approached Taliana and **her sisters**. “Lovely ladies”, he said humbly, “please accept this modest loaf of bread. I would be honored if you would accept my gift.” Hesitating, the young women conferred. Then with a smile that Marco would forever cherish, Taliana stretched out her hand. “Kind sir,” she said, “we thank you for this loaf which our family will eat with pleasure.” And she placed a flower in his hand.

Taliana’s **parents** were very pleased to receive the bread. It was very delicious. With each bite, the family sensed the giver of such a gift must indeed be someone of great generosity. “You have made a good friend,” said her **father**.

The next day at the market, Taliana and her family were surprised to see **Amir**, **a hard-working farmer** they knew, chained to a post with a sign around his neck that said, “This man stole bread. He will stay here until his debt is paid.” Taliana knew Amir’s wife had died and he had many children to feed, but surely he would never steal. “You’re right,” he told her. “The **mayor** wants my farm and he made up the story to get my land, and I have no bread or money to give him, and my children will surely starve to death.”

Taliana felt terrible! How could she rescue him, she wondered desperately, knowing that he loved his children and that his family was as precious to him as Taliana’s was to her. ”We need to find the stranger who gave you bread,” Taliana’s father exclaimed. “He was kind and generous. We will entreat him for another loaf and purchase this man’s freedom!” Her sisters thought that was a great idea. “Hurry! We’ll help you find him!” they cried.

But the stranger was not to be found. Suddenly they heard **trumpets** as the king appeared. Without hesitation, Taliana threw herself at his feet. “Your majesty,” she began, “we are in need of a loaf of bread. Can you spare us one?” Recognizing Taliana, the king said, “Young woman, you do not look like a beggar. Why beseech me for bread?” She persisted, even though she knew the king might get angry and throw HER in jail. “It is not for my family but for that poor wretched man tied to the post. He is falsely accused of stealing. He did not steal! The mayor just wants his farm,” she said, pointing to the mayor. “Amir’s wife has died and he has many children. He merely seeks to keep his family alive and well.”

Touched by her bravery and her love of family, King Marco ordered his servants to free the man and throw the mayor in jail instead. Turning to Taliana, he said, “Do you not recognize me? It was I who gave you bread, and you in turn gave me a flower. I gave you a gift for a day but you have given me beauty and kindness for a lifetime. I desire a family that will produce children with such inner courage and beauty as yours. May I ask your father and mother for your hand in marriage? Will you be my queen?”

*~ The End ~*

*Taliana*

ARTICLE 16

You have the right to marry
and start a family.

Nobody should force you to marry.

The family is the basic unit of society,
and government should protect it.

The UNIVERSAL DECLARATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS

# This Little Light of Mine

This little light of mine - I'm gonna let it shine!
This little light of mine - I'm gonna let it shine!
This little light of mine - I'm gonna let it shine!
Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine!

Everywhere I go - I'm gonna let it shine!
Everywhere I go - I'm gonna let it shine!
Everywhere I go - I'm gonna let it shine!
Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine!

This little light of mine - I'm gonna let it shine!
This little light of mine - I'm gonna let it shine!
This little light of mine - I'm gonna let it shine!
Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine!

To listen to the music:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vofUBWT8GIU