



Year 1: *On the Road*

The programme begins and the pupils are immediately swept into the imaginary superhero world of the two principle characters: Tanya, aged ten (also known as The Ice Queen) and Simon, aged eleven (also known as The Slayer). From their superhero fortress hidden beneath the stage of a disused church hall, The Ice Queen and The Slayer fearlessly defend the world from imminent destruction at the hands of the evil warlords of Zargon.



Risking their lives to save the rest of us, the dynamic duo defeat the enemy and still manage to get home in time for tea. Away from their secret den, Simon and Tanya are classmates and close friends committed to keeping their fantasy world private. However, Simon's father, John, does not approve of Simon's friendship with Tanya who he considers to be an absent-minded dreamer and a danger to herself and those around her.

At home, the pupils watch John preparing for his first road safety talk on behalf of Road Aware which he is due to give to Simon's class next week. To Simon's embarrassment, his father is dressed in fluorescent clothing with a flashing cycle helmet and is firing off safety mottoes. Simon

tells his father he will be treated as a joke and, besides, what can anyone tell his classmates about road safety that they haven't heard before?



The next day, after school, Tanya tells Simon the church hall has been sold and that their den is in grave danger of demolition. They return to the den to try and salvage their belongings, but while they are there they cannot resist one final adventure as The Ice Queen and The Slayer. Suddenly, disturbed by voices they hear in the hall, and still caught up in their fantasy world, they fear capture at the hands of the evil warlords and so flee from their den.

When Simon arrives home his father is trying to comfort Linda, his Road Aware colleague who has just witnessed a road accident involving a child pedestrian. Despite Simon's best efforts to conceal it, his father discovers that Simon has torn the sleeve of his new coat and injured his arm quite badly. When asked to explain the cause of his injury, Simon claims he has hurt himself playing football.

The pupils are then told that a traffic surveillance camera has captured the accident witnessed by Linda. They

are asked to work in groups using image theatre techniques to recreate the accident.



Their resulting 'still images' are then shared with the whole class. The pupils then watch a short scene, which shows that Simon and Tanya were involved in the road accident witnessed by Linda. Through discussion and 'hot seating' the pupils explore why Tanya and Simon failed to cross the road safely that day. The 'hot seat' allows pupils to directly challenge the characters' attitudes and actions and enables the pupils to explore whose responsibility it was to keep Simon and Tanya safe.

Returning to the drama, the pupils are reminded of John's classroom road safety speech and they are asked to work in groups to prepare safety campaigns of their own, targeting child pedestrians, cyclists and playing safely.



Evaluation Overview:

The On the Road evaluation forms are very positive and indicate excellent responses to the programme.

The teacher evaluation form asked teachers to rate aspects of the programme on a scale of one to five, 1 being poor and 5 being excellent. Of the forty-seven responses 91% regarded the programme as very good or excellent road safety information. 78% felt it examined attitudes and enabled the children to practise skills regarding safety and risk as very good or excellent and 88% rated the overall quality of the performance as very good or excellent.

Teacher responses also included:

'A superb way of getting the message across.'

'The information was accurate and taught in a very interesting way I particularly liked the learning through drama.'

'it emphasised children's responsibility to road safety and risk. Empowered them to know how to behave in such a situation.'

'Children of varying abilities could all be involved and examine their attitudes towards risk.'

'The children identified with the character that said he knew all about road safety and he would never have an accident- very important.'

'It was pacy and changed frequently from watching to participation – a good mix.'

'It really got the children talking and thinking. First class'