



KS2

Literacy Booster

Theme of the Week – Resilience



A Song in the Mess
Donald Wood, 1917
© 'the copyright holder'

Activity 1 – Think

- Who are the people in the picture?
- Where are these people?
- What are they doing?
- What big event is happening in the world at this time?
- Why do you think they might be singing?

Hint – Check the date and title of the artwork to help you.

In the armed forces a Mess is a room or building where people eat their meals, socialise and relax. In some there are rooms to sleep in, like a hotel.



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Activity 2 - Explore

In the painting, the airmen were singing as a way to overcome the challenges of the First World War. Find out below about one of these famous aviators who also had to overcome challenges to achieve what they wanted.



You could listen to a story about the resilience of Jamaican First World War pilot William Robinson ('Robbie') Clarke here:

https://assets.rafmuseum.org.uk/app/uploads/2021/02/Robbie_Clarke.mp3



Courtesy of
Royal Aero Club Trust

The official Casualty Card from 1917, that records Robbie's serious accident, can be seen here:

<http://www.rafmuseumstoryvault.org.uk/archive/7000267744-clarke-w.r>



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Find out about world famous pioneer pilot Amy Johnson's long distance solo flight from the UK to Australia here:

<https://www.rafmuseum.org.uk/research/archive-exhibitions/wonderful-amy/australia/>



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You can watch fast jet pilot Trevor Edwards talking about his experiences here:

<https://www.rafstories.org/stories/search?fulltext=trevor+edwards>





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Activity 3 - Create

Research and write a report about one of the people you have already found out about or find out about some other famous aviators who had to be resilient.

Include what your chosen person did and outline how they overcame their problems.

Remember that reports are factual and should concentrate on facts, not opinions



Activity 4 - Do

Both listening to music and singing are great ways of helping to relieve stress.

Either - Try to make up an inspirational song to go with your favourite tune

Or - Learn a song that could lift other people's spirits



Well done!