

# Empathising

Levels 6/7

**L.I. I am learning to put myself in the shoes of someone else**

**Simon is studying about World War 1. He was presented with the following letter written by an English soldier to his family.**

The German that I shot who died soon afterwards was a fine-looking man. I was there when he died, poor chap. I did feel sorry, but it was my life or his; ... I thought to myself, perhaps he has a mother or dad, also a sweetheart, and a lot of things like that, I was really sorry I did it, but God knows I could not help myself.

**Simon had to answer the following question:  
Put yourself in the shoes of the German soldier.  
You are facing the enemy. You are in imminent danger of being shot. What comes to your mind?**

**Simon wrote the following:**

Is he really going to shoot me? I am too young to die! I do not want to leave my mum and dad and my sweet little sister.

**What do you think about these sentences?**

**The teacher gave Simon the following feedback.**

- 1. v.g. Simon, you did put yourself in the shoes of the German soldier.**
- 2. What crossed his mind when he was shot and realised he was dying?**

**In view of the teacher's feedback Simon wrote:**

The German soldier could have said to himself:  
"Oh my Lord, save me. Take care of my family!"

[He could not have said much because according to the English soldier, the German soldier "died soon afterwards".

**Something for you to do.**

**Put yourself in the shoes of the father of the German soldier. You have just received the news of the death of your son. What do you feel ?**

