



# UNICEF

## Primary Schools Assemblies





# About the Rights Respecting Schools Award

Unicef works with schools in the UK to create safe and inspiring places to learn, where children are respected, their talents are nurtured and they are able to thrive. Our Rights Respecting Schools Award embeds these values in daily school life and gives ALL children at GJS the best chance to lead happy, healthy lives and to be responsible, active citizens

WE ARE A UNICEF GOLD RIGHTS RESPECTING SCHOOL



Children's rights are learned, understood and lived in this school.



# Mother Language Day

• 21<sup>st</sup> February

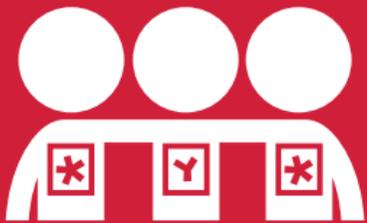
## Key Words

- Freedom
- Equal
- Global
- Harmony
- Justice
- Respect



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NO DISCRIMINATION



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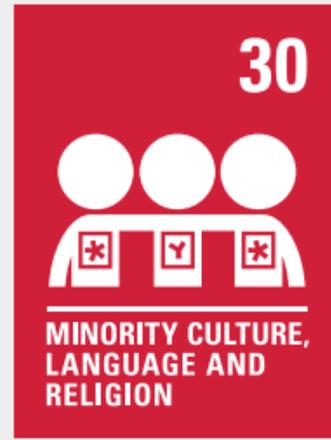
MINORITY CULTURE,  
LANGUAGE AND  
RELIGION





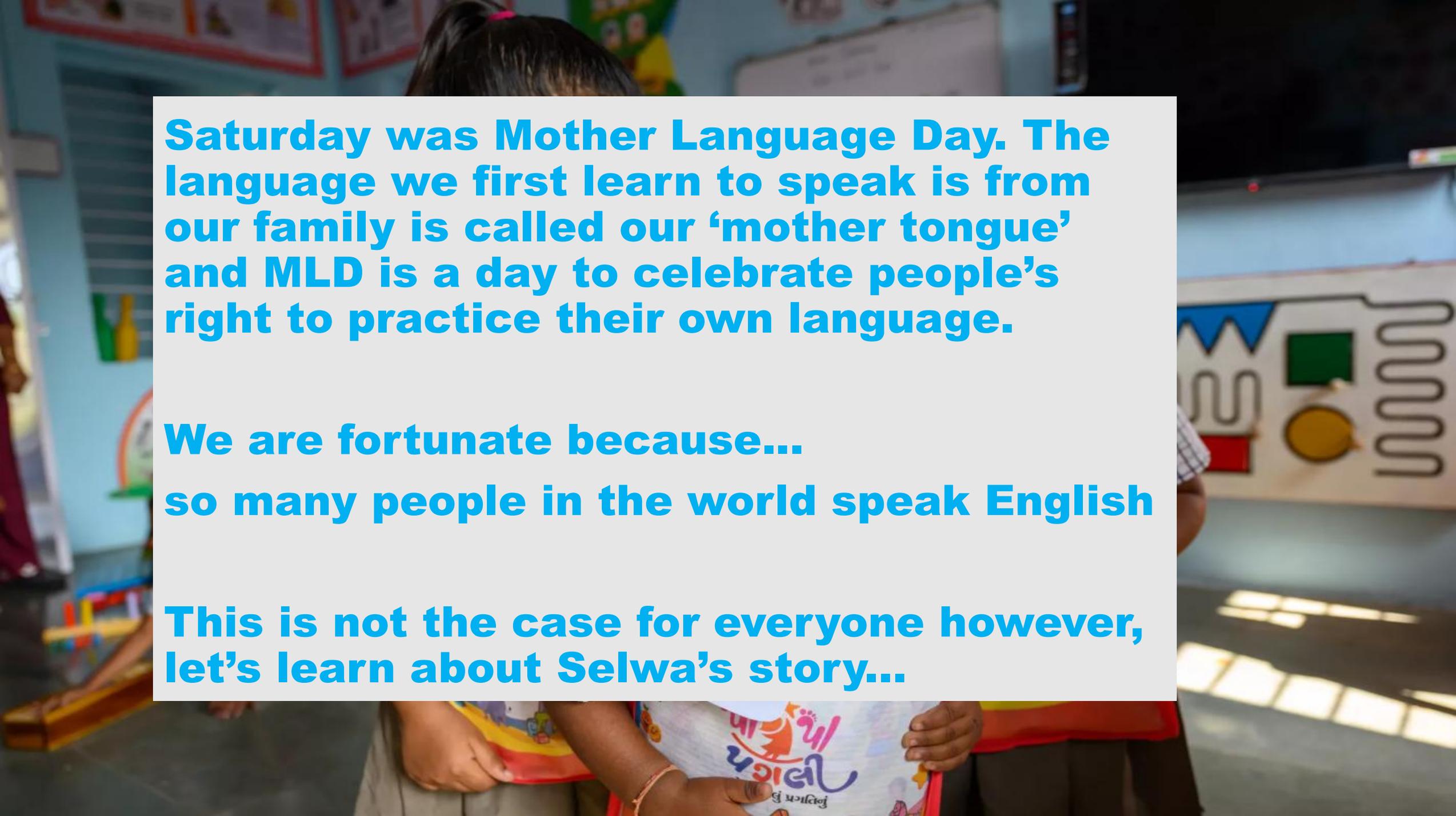
All children have all these rights, no matter who they are, where they live, what language they speak, what their religion is, what they think, what they look like, if they are a boy or girl, if they have a disability, if they are rich or poor,

and no matter who their parents or families are or what their parents or families believe or do. No child should be treated unfairly for any reason.



Children have the right to use their own language, culture and religion - even if these are not shared by most people in the country where they live.





**Saturday was Mother Language Day. The language we first learn to speak is from our family is called our 'mother tongue' and MLD is a day to celebrate people's right to practice their own language.**

**We are fortunate because...  
so many people in the world speak English**

**This is not the case for everyone however,  
let's learn about Selwa's story...**

## Selwa's story

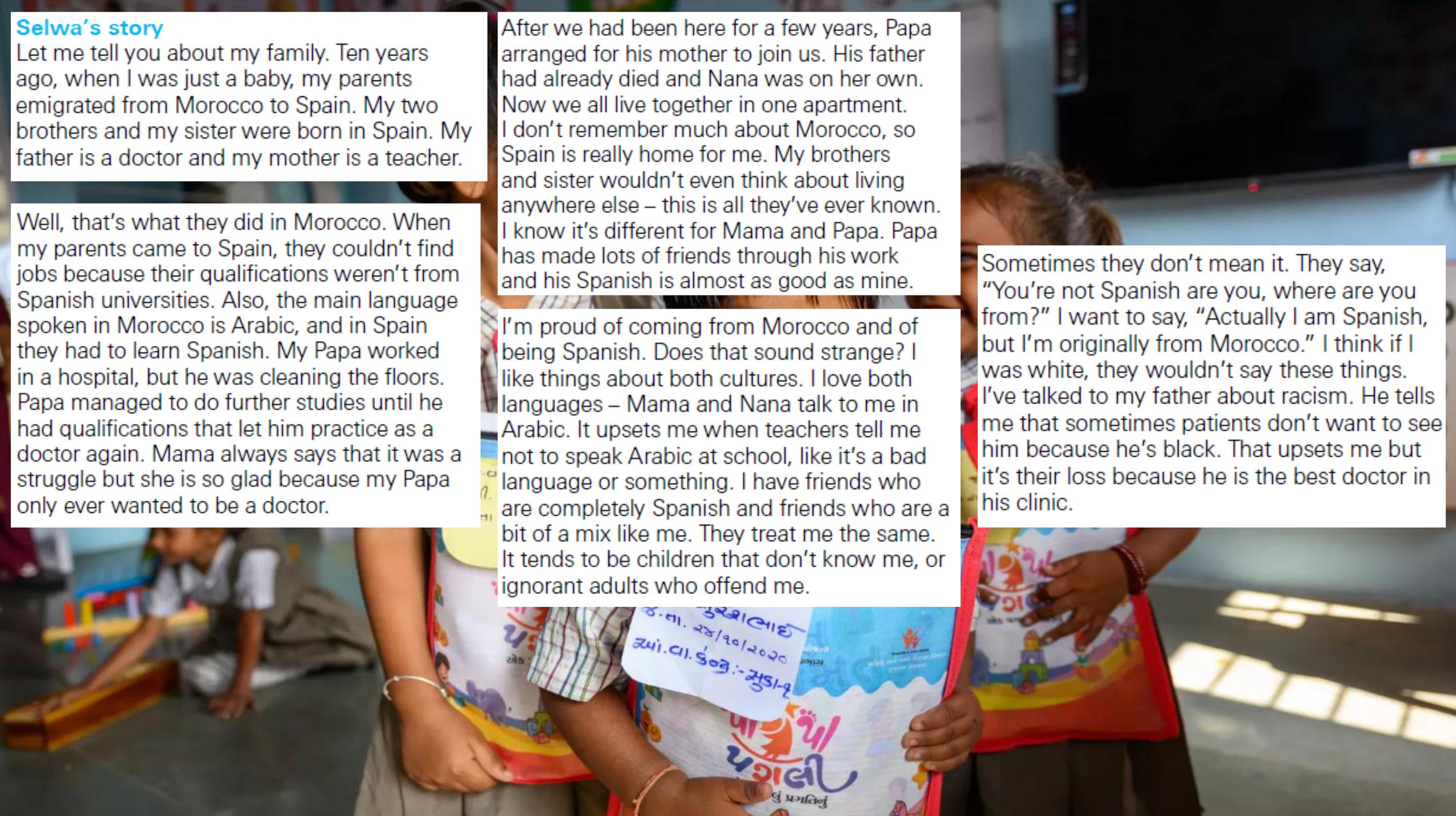
Let me tell you about my family. Ten years ago, when I was just a baby, my parents emigrated from Morocco to Spain. My two brothers and my sister were born in Spain. My father is a doctor and my mother is a teacher.

Well, that's what they did in Morocco. When my parents came to Spain, they couldn't find jobs because their qualifications weren't from Spanish universities. Also, the main language spoken in Morocco is Arabic, and in Spain they had to learn Spanish. My Papa worked in a hospital, but he was cleaning the floors. Papa managed to do further studies until he had qualifications that let him practice as a doctor again. Mama always says that it was a struggle but she is so glad because my Papa only ever wanted to be a doctor.

After we had been here for a few years, Papa arranged for his mother to join us. His father had already died and Nana was on her own. Now we all live together in one apartment. I don't remember much about Morocco, so Spain is really home for me. My brothers and sister wouldn't even think about living anywhere else – this is all they've ever known. I know it's different for Mama and Papa. Papa has made lots of friends through his work and his Spanish is almost as good as mine.

I'm proud of coming from Morocco and of being Spanish. Does that sound strange? I like things about both cultures. I love both languages – Mama and Nana talk to me in Arabic. It upsets me when teachers tell me not to speak Arabic at school, like it's a bad language or something. I have friends who are completely Spanish and friends who are a bit of a mix like me. They treat me the same. It tends to be children that don't know me, or ignorant adults who offend me.

Sometimes they don't mean it. They say, "You're not Spanish are you, where are you from?" I want to say, "Actually I am Spanish, but I'm originally from Morocco." I think if I was white, they wouldn't say these things. I've talked to my father about racism. He tells me that sometimes patients don't want to see him because he's black. That upsets me but it's their loss because he is the best doctor in his clinic.





Godalming Junior School

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# Final Reflections



**After listening to this story, what thoughts come to mind...?**

**Does the story make you think differently about those at GJS?**

**What have you learnt this morning?**

**Why are these key words from the story?**