Florence Nightingale: The Lady with the Lamp

Learning objective: To learn about the life and impact of Florence Nightingale, a significant individual in history.

Read the story about Florence Nightingale carefully with Ellie the elephant, then answer the questions below.

Long ago, there lived a kind woman named Florence Nightingale. Florence wanted to help people, so she decided to become a nurse. During a time called the Crimean War, she travelled far away to a big hospital where many soldiers were hurt and poorly. When she arrived, the hospital was not very clean, and the soldiers were sad. Florence worked very hard to clean the wards and make sure the soldiers had good food. She believed that clean hospitals helped people get better faster. At night, when the hospital was dark and quiet, Florence walked through the long rooms carrying a small lantern. She checked on each soldier to make sure they were comfortable. The soldiers were so happy to see her light that they called her ‘The Lady with the Lamp’. Because of her hard work, many soldiers recovered and went home to their families. Today, we remember Florence because she changed how hospitals are run and showed us how to care for people with kindness and bravery.

Word bank: hospital · nurse · lamp · soldier · Florence · history

1. Why did the soldiers call Florence 'The Lady with the Lamp'? (2 marks)

2. What did Florence do to help make the hospital a better place? (2 marks)

3. How do you think the soldiers felt when Florence walked past them at night? (2 marks)

4. Why was it important for Florence to keep the hospital clean? (2 marks)

5. Do you think Florence was a brave person? Give one reason for your answer. (2 marks)

Draw: Draw a picture of Florence Nightingale walking through the hospital at night holding her lantern.

Extension challenge: Imagine you are a soldier in the hospital. Write one sentence to thank Florence for her kindness.