

Unit 1

Most days after school, Salinder and Susan (who have been friends since nursery) walk through Kennington Park and stop off at their favourite tree. Salinder is very good at climbing and always helps Susan up to the first branch where they sit and talk about what's been going on.

One day, Salinder talks about a film she's seen recently about famous rock climbers and how it has made her realise that she wants to be a rock climber too.

Explore/show:

- Salinder and Susan. Who are they? Age? Likes dislikes? Home/school life?
- The girls' relationship
- The journey home from school each day
- What do the girls see at the top of the tree? What do they talk about?
- Salinder would like to become a rock climber. What are Susan's aspirations and dreams for the future? What might the barriers to these dreams be?

Unit 2

Just at that moment two wolves run over to the tree followed by a man with one eye. The man tells Salinder and Susan that the tree is very special and will make their dreams come true. He gives the girls a magic pen so that they can write their dreams on the leaves of the tree. Salinder quickly writes down her dream but Susan doesn't know what her dream is, so she doesn't know what to write. The one-eyed man is in a hurry and tells Susan that she has until the end of the summer to think about it. After that her chance will be gone.

Explore/show:

- Who is the man with one eye and where did he come from? (Describe).
- Why is he in a hurry? Where is he going?
- What might happen to the dreams that are written by the magic pen?



Unit 3

The next day after school, Salinder goes to the local climbing wall. She meets Jimmy, the instructor, who looks very much like the man with one eye. Jimmy thinks that Salinder is the best beginner he has ever seen and wants to train her to be a junior champion. Salinder now spends all her spare time at the climbing wall and Susan has to sit in the tree on her own.

Susan and Salinder are in Year 6. Susan is looking forward to spending the summer with Salinder when term finishes. They are not going to the same secondary school and Susan wants to make sure that their friendship stays strong. But Salinder has other ideas. She is going to Kent for a week to climb at Harrison's Rock and if she does well there she will take part in a major competition in the Lake District. Salinder is so busy training that she doesn't have time to talk to Susan now.

Explore/show:

- How does Susan feel?
- What do Salinder and Susan feel about going to secondary school?
- Do you think Salinder is being selfish?

Unit 4

Susan starts hanging around with another crowd of kids who moan a lot that there is nothing much to do. For a laugh they pick on Salinder when they see her practising her climbing moves in the park. Susan doesn't intervene as her new friends tell Salinder that she is too fat to be a climber and that you can't be a climber if you wear a hijab and anyway it's a stupid idea when you live in the city where there aren't any rocks.

Salinder is still proud of her achievements and tries to ignore them. She texts Susan when she is on her way to the Lake District asking her friend to wish her luck in the competition. Susan feels a surge of jealousy that she can't contain any longer. She goes to the tree and manages to climb to the first branch on her own where she reaches up and pulls off the leaf with Salinder's dream. The leaf is warm in her hand from all Salinder's activity and Susan stuffs it in her pocket and runs off home.

Explore/show:

- Who are the new friends that Susan is hanging round with?
- Why does Susan allow her new friends to pick on Salinder?
- Why did Susan not get involved in the rock climbing activity?
- Why does Susan take Salinder's dream and what is she going to do with it?
- What might happen next?
- Discuss in small groups how this story ends.
- Pick one idea and using everyone in the group show in three still pictures the events that take place. Each group must involve a narrator to tell the group what's happening in the picture.
- Stage the play with each group taking a unit each and creating a short improvisation. Add additional characters so everyone is involved.
- Note any interesting points from the discussion.

