

Nano Nagle Godly Play

Today we are going to learn about a very special lady named Nano Nagle.

[Put down mat]

Nano's real name was Hanora

[Put down Nano doll]

She was born in Ireland in 1718. This is the Irish flag.

[Put down Irish flag]

When Nano was a little girl there were no schools for Catholic children. However, some brave teachers went about disguised as beggars and labourers. These teachers were called 'hedge school masters' because they taught their classes beside country hedges or in old ruins.

[Put down picture of a hedge]

When Nano was a teenager her parents sent her to France to continue her education. She went to a school where she was taught by nuns. I wonder how Nano felt being in a strange country?

Nano eventually learnt the language and led a life of parties and socialising until one day Nano noticed a group of poor people in the freezing cold. I wonder how this made Nano feel?

Some time later Nano returned to Ireland after her father died. She had bought with her a roll of expensive material from France and was shocked when she discovered one day that her sister, Ann, had cut it up to make dresses for the poor.

These two events made Nano realise that there was more to life than parties and Nano was changed for ever. The question in her heart now was 'What can I do for God?' The answer she believed to this question was to educate the poor.

[Put down children dolls]

Because of the laws of the time she had to do this in secret. During the day she sought out the poor children of Ireland and taught them. Of a night, lantern in hand, she went around to provide families with the necessities of life that they needed. Because of this she became known as 'The Lady of the Lantern'.

[Put down picture of lantern]

She also begged for money to help support the work being done in her schools. She opened homes for aged women and began conducting adult classes.

I wonder what part of Nano's story you liked best?

I wonder what part of the story is most important?

I wonder if Nano was scared running her schools in secret?

I wonder what each of us could 'do for God?'

