

# Primary Key Activities - The Conchie/Brothers at War



The Conchie /Brothers at War	Objectives	Key Activities
<p><b>Key Concepts:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Why did some people say no to war?</li> <li>• What happened to them and their families?</li> </ul> <p><b>Key Vocabulary :</b> Conscience, war, brave, coward, conscription, Conchie, Conscientious Objector, tribunal, religion, belief, choice, consequence</p> <p><b>NC Links:</b> English, Art, History, Citizenship.</p>	<p>Students should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• predict what may be happening in visual images and artwork</li> <li>• know that by 1916 for most boys and men there was no choice in joining the armed forces</li> <li>• be able explain that some people thought it was wrong to fight in the war and why</li> <li>• recognise the choices made by people in the story and reflect on what their own might be</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In groups look at images of Arthur Gay's painting The Conchie; each group works collaboratively to prepare a three minute presentation which tells a story explaining what is happening in the painting; teacher decides which one is the nearest to the real story and awards this group a white feather</li> <li>• Explain: that this might be something that was given to the young man in the painting or his family; the word Conchie, the name of the painting, is an insult derived from Conscientious Objector, often shortened to CO; conscription meant that most young men had to fight in 1916 unless they were 'Conchies'</li> <li>• Tell the story of one particular Conchie (Bert Brocklesby) Brothers at War</li> </ul> <p><b>Key questions :</b> <i>Why did most boys and men have to 'join up' in 1916? Why do you think Bert refused to fight? Who was brave in the story? Is it possible to have different opinions and make different choices and still be friends? What do you think the white feather meant? How does it feel to be sent/given one once you know what it means?</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Look again at the painting of the Conchie. Now what story do you think it tells?</li> <li>• Write a personal account, of what is happening as if of you are one of the guards or the Conchie himself. What is your story?</li> <li>• Share and discuss</li> </ul> <p><b>Extension Activities :</b> <i>paint a scene from the Brothers at War Story, reflective diary entry about what choices students might have made and the likely consequences.</i></p>