**Scarce Housing
“Musical Chairs”**

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**Introduction**: The game of Musical Chairs has traditionally been used to teach the concept of scarcity. This activity expands on this idea by defining a chair as a home, and contemplating what’s it like when this home no longer available.

**Time Required**: 30-40 minutes.

**Materials**:

* Device for playing music
* Chairs arranged in a circle
* Visual- Situation Card Example
* Activity Cards- Situation Cards (one for each student)
* Writing tools

**Objectives:**

* The student will be take on the identity of a fictional homeless character.
* The student will participate in the scarcity activity of musical chairs.

**Procedure**:

1. Collect the needed materials and set up the chairs.
2. Display Situation Card Example and review its contents with the students.
3. Instruct students to write a situation card based on a fictional character. Possible characters include: Oliver Twist, Peter Pan, Maniac Magee, Mowgli, Tarzan, Jane Eyre, Sophie (The BFG), and Violet, Klaus & Sunny Baudelaire.
4. Introduce the activity by telling the students they will be playing an interactive game based on the game musical chairs. Explain that every chair represents a home.
5. Play the game.
6. When the music stops, the person without a “house” must read their situation card to the group and go to the back of the room.
7. Play as time allows.
8. Debrief the activity by discussing the situations of the various characters and how not having a home influenced their life and the choices they made.

**Situation Card Example**

**Name**: Hansel Woodson

**Age**: 8 years

**Living Situation**:

Currently living in the forest with my sister Gretel after being abandoned by our father and step-mother. We are looking for food and shelter. Hopefully a kind stranger will help us.

 

**Situation Cards**

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| --- | --- |
| Name:Age:Living Situation:  | Name:Age:Living Situation: |
| Name:Age:Living Situation: | Name:Age:Living Situation: |
| Name:Age:Living Situation: | Name:Age:Living Situation: |