



**Year Group:** Year 1 and 2

**Length:** 25 mins

**Starting Positions:** Sit in your own space on the floor

### Learning Intentions:

*To know about...*

- Florence Nightingale's work in the Crimean War
- The conditions in Crimean Field Hospitals
- The role of women in Victorian Times

### Synopsis:

- You are a young Florence Nightingale growing up in an upper class household who is always caring for others, including the servants.
- Sidney Herbert comes for dinner and tells you about the war brewing with Russia.
- Realising you want to be a nurse, you defy convention and run away to nursing school where you excel but are bullied for being posh.
- At nursing school you learn of the terrible conditions in the field hospitals in Scutari and when Sidney Herbert arrives to take you home, you persuade him to let you go to war, taking Edith with you.
- You find Jim in the hospital, gravely ill, and learn that he is Edith's brother!
- You make a list of all the things that need improving in the hospital and take it to the Chief Doctor. He doesn't want to know and wants you to follow his orders.
- You stay up all night caring for Jim and the other soldiers.
- Everyone is amazed about how much work you have done and the fact that you've helped Jim, who is beginning to make a recovery.
- Just as you feel that everything is going to get better, there is a ground attack on the hospital and Edith is badly injured.
- You fall asleep and find yourself back in England, with Edith by your side.
- Because of your services, you are asked to start a nursing school by Queen Victoria.

### Characters:

- Florence
- Father
- Jim
- Edith
- Matron
- Sidney Herbert – Minister for War and a close ally of Florence Nightingale
- Chief Doctor
- Queen Victoria

## Locations:

- **Embley Park (Nightingale Family House)** – large manor house in Hampshire with several servants
- **Nursing School, London** – run by Matron, a residential nursing school where nurses slept in dormitories
- **Ship** – rough journey to Turkey
- **Field Hospital** – terrible conditions and thousands of wounded soldiers
- **Room in London** – both Florence and Edith are recuperating

## Glossary:

- **Scutari** – a municipality of Istanbul, Turkey on the Anatolian side of the city
- **Scutari Barracks** - former hospital in Üsküdar where Florence Nightingale worked

## Discussion:

### Story & Factual

- What kind of families had servants in Victorian times? (*Answer: upper class families. Florence's father was an educated man and they were members of the aristocracy*)
- When Florence is in her room, she thinks about becoming a nurse. How do we know she'd be a good nurse?
- What does Florence learn about the conditions in the Field Hospitals in Turkey? Why were these so bad for wounded soldiers?
- What are the shocking things that Florence sees when she arrives at the field hospital? What needs improving?
- Why were the British people so thankful to Florence Nightingale?

### PSHE & Philosophical

- How was life different for women in the Victorian times? Think about what Florence's father says '*In families like ours women don't have jobs*'?
- Why do you think Edith is so mean to Florence? Is it fair to dislike her this much?
- Sidney Herbert says a warzone isn't a place for women. Do you think it's right that Florence should go out there to be a nurse? Why/why not?
- Why do you think the Chief Doctor is so rude to Florence, even though her ideas are good?
- Florence feels very guilty when Edith is injured in the attack – do you think she should feel guilty?
- What do you think made Florence work so hard, even when everyone else had gone to bed?

## Resources:

You'll find these follow up resources on your shared drive:

- **Literacy Resources** – Reading Comprehension/Text Analysis, 3x SPAG exercises, Poem/Short writing exercise, Formal Prose, Creative Writing, Spelling Test
- **Photo Storyboard** – order the images from the story (or use them for other things – e.g. writing)
- **Quick Quiz** – re-cap key facts
- **Or try some recount, report or creative writing ideas of your own!**