The stories

*The Photograph* begins in Africa, in a place where food trucks are distributing food. A photojournalist takes a photo of a starving girl, as she sits on the ground after the food has all been taken. Back in America, this photograph is put on the front cover of a magazine. An African-American teenager with an eating disorder looks at fashion photos of a thin Nigerian model in *Vogue*. She sees the photo of the starving girl and because she longs to be thin like a fashion model, she only notices and admires the thin face of the girl.

*Leonard* describes the relationship of an elderly couple. Leonard can no longer speak or look after himself. His wife has arthritis and doesn’t usually knit, but she buys some blue wool and secretly knits a scarf. Leonard wore a blue scarf when they first met. On their wedding anniversary she puts the scarf round Leonard’s neck. For a moment, Leonard’s eyes come alive. The scarf symbolises their marriage – not perfect, full of holes, but soft and beautiful.

*A Pot Full of Tears* is set in Africa. A young girl is pregnant and her father keeps her pregnancy secret so that she doesn’t spoil her chances of marriage. A stranger waits for the baby to be born and takes it away immediately. This woman sells the baby to a childless couple in another country. The barren wife will be rejected by her husband’s family if she can’t produce a child. The barren couple are happy and the baby grows up loved and well-fed. But the young mother who gave her child away is still crying over her lost child, years later when she is married with a baby daughter.

*The House* tells the story of Sonny and Nan, a Jamaican couple planning to marry. Sonny decides to give the house he is building to his ex-wife and children because he wants his children to have a better life than he has had. Sonny was a homeless alcoholic when they first met. Nan helped him survive, and when he has recovered and has a job he returns to Nan. In the end, Nan agrees that the house be given to his ex-wife. Sonny is happy to realise how much she trusts him.

*Dora’s Turn* describes the killing of a boy by a group of child soldiers on the orders of their 14-year-old commander. Acayo is ordered to shoot Dora, who has also tried to escape. She takes Dora behind some trees but she cannot kill her because they are friends. Suddenly they hear shooting and Acayo realises that government troops have found the rebel group of child soldiers. So she and Dora are able to run away together.

*Callus* is the story of a husband and wife who are unwilling to show their feelings to each other. The husband is setting off to marry a young second wife, and the first wife helps him to pack his suitcase. She wants to tell him how she feels about the new wife, but instead, the suitcase comes to symbolise their marriage – too small and old to be still useful. The husband is relieved that he does not have to deal with her feelings.

*Nimble Fingers* is about a little boy of six who works in a cigarette factory in India. His is proud of how good he is at his job, but wishes he could use his nimble fingers to work with his uncle who is a weaver. His mother is upset when he asks why he can’t work with his uncle, and eventually she tells him that he will have to work in the factory all his life, like his father, because his grandfather borrowed money from the factory owner and sold him and his father in exchange for the money.

*The Festive Season in a Part of Africa* is set in Southern Africa. A vet goes to a distant village to treat a cow struggling to give birth. He delivers the calf and then discusses payment with Granny, the old woman who owns the cow. He calculates how much the calf will be worth to her, and then cuts that price in half. He reduces the price further, and Granny then gives him some extra for his assistant. Everyone is happy!
Cries from the Heart
Stories from Around the World
*Pre-reading activity*

**Picture match**

*Match the pictures with the words and the story titles.*

**Words**

a. He was just a street man, a drunkard, and so dirty.
b. The question made Amma unhappy, and when she is unhappy she hits her head with her open hand.
c. ‘I plan to finish the scarf for our fifty-third wedding anniversary,’
d. Her arms and legs are thin as sticks; she is only skin and bone.
e. He didn’t understand. No one understood. She couldn’t ask him not to go.
f. She was a very small woman but she was the head of her family in the kraal.
g. The boy will eat well every day, he will have the love of a family around him.
h. At that moment comes the sound of heavy guns behind us, where Mad Tiger and the others are.

**Story Titles**

i. The Photograph
j. Leonard
k. A Pot Full of Tears
l. The House
m. Dora’s Turn
n. Callus
o. Nimble Fingers
p. The Festive Season in a Part of Africa

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**To the teacher**

*Aim:* To encourage students to predict the setting and themes of the eight stories

*Time:* 30 minutes

*Organization:* Put the students into pairs after they have read the cover and the introduction. Give one copy of the worksheet to each pair. Ask them to discuss and predict which story belongs to which picture, and then add the words to the pictures. They may need to use a dictionary to check some of the more unusual words. Check the answers with the whole class.

*Key:* 1cj, 2al, 3di, 4fp, 5bo, 6hm, 7en, 8gk
Cries from the Heart
Stories from Around the World

While reading activity

Get it right

Correct as many mistakes as possible.

Nan is building a new house. Sonny decides to give the house to his ex-wife and children, because he wants his ex-wife to have a better life. But Nan can’t understand why Sonny still cares about his ex-wife. Sonny was a street man because his children kicked him out and sold all his things.

Sonny was hungry and dirty and Nan gave him some fruit. Nan sold fruit on a street corner and she liked Sonny because he called her ‘old girl’. She sold Sonny fruit every day and one day she took him to a stall which helped street people.

Two years later, Sonny came back to Nan’s fruit stall and gave her some fruit. He was clean and tidy. ‘I have a job with the town council now,’ he told her. They started working together and Nan was very hungry. They are planning to get married but now Sonny wants to take the house from his ex-wife.

It is hard, but Nan decides not to trust Sonny. ‘Let them live in the church. We will work together to build our own,’ she says. And Sonny is happy because she trusts him and she is clean enough to wait for her house.

To the teacher

Where: At the end of ‘The House’
Aim: To summarize, revise reading, and check text in detail
Time: 15–20 minutes
Organization: This activity gives a summary of ‘The House’. There are a number of factual mistakes in the summary. Give each student, or pair of students, a copy of the summary and ask them to read and correct as many mistakes as possible. They can create their own summaries of other stories, with mistakes for other students to correct.
# Cries from the Heart

Stories from Around the World

## After reading activity

### Order the events

**Put the following events in the correct order.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>EVENT</th>
<th>ORDER</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>ACTIVITY 1: DORA'S TURN</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>a Mad Tiger smiles at Acayo. ‘Are you ready?’ They push Dora forward, and she falls on the ground.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b ‘I can’t do this,’ Acayo says. ‘You must,’ Dora whispers. ‘Or they’ll kill you too.’</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>c He drops his gun and takes hold of Dora’s hand. ‘Run!’ And the ground trembles under their running feet.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>d The little boy on the ground stops moving. It is over. Dora also tried to escape, and she’ll be next.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>e ‘Then they must kill us both. You are my friend. We can run away,’ Acayo says.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>f Holding Dora’s arm, he pushes her towards the trees. The killing will happen there, where no one can see.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>g At that moment comes the sound of heavy guns behind us, where Mad Tiger and the others are.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>h They will order Acayo to kill Dora. She stands, waiting for Dora’s turn.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>i Suddenly Acayo understands. Those are government army guns. A helicopter gunship has found Mad Tiger’s group.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>j Mad Tiger and the other commanders are watching, so Acayo takes Dora’s arm and pulls her to her feet.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>ACTIVITY 2: THE FESTIVE SEASON IN A PART OF AFRICA</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>a I said hello to Granny who owned the cow. Then I looked at the cow and found that the calf was alive.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b The woman wanted me to look at her mother’s cow which had a calf waiting to be born.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>c ‘You can pay me 750 rands,’ I said. Everybody was smiling and happy.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>d We walked back, with a long line of helpers carrying my bags. We stopped sometimes to eat the wild fruit that grows in this part of Africa in the festive season.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>e ‘We must talk about money. Is business now,’ Granny called so everyone could hear.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>f Granny pulled out lots of 200 rand notes, and she gave four of them to me.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>g Two days after Christmas a Zulu woman and her son waited for me to finish my clinic.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>h At that moment comes the sound of heavy guns behind us, where Mad Tiger and the others are.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>i ‘You have given me too much,’ I said. ‘The 50 is for your assistant Mbabmo,’ Granny said.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>j We got in my pick-up, and drove for an hour. We then walked a long way to a lonely kraal.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### To the teacher

**Aim:** To revise and summarize two stories

**Time:** 40 minutes

**Organization:** This can be done with small groups of students. Give them one worksheet per group and let them discuss the events in the stories. When they have put them in order, check with the whole class.

Once they have done this, you can ask students in groups to tell the stories in the right order.

**Key:**
- **Activity 1:** a3, b6, c10, d1, e7, f5, g8, h2, i9, j4
- **Activity 2:** a4, b2, c7, d10, e6, f8, g1, h5, i9, j3