

BELONGINGS – EASY READ GUIDE

Belongings follows the stories of BT (8), Cleo (9) & Leila (12). Leila & BT live in a foster home. Cleo joins them having left her home in an urgent way. Cleo is confused, she wants to see her mum (who has been struggling to look after her) & she wants to get home. Leila misses her sister & BT is preparing for a life with a new adoptive family. BT & Leila have become like siblings. There is a character called Jo who sits at the side of the stage and is the person who operates the lights and sound and who makes sure the characters stay safe. Through games, dreams & talking to each other the three children learn & grow together supporting each other & understanding the strength inside them. *Belongings* is a play for 7-11 year olds .

Please be aware that scenes within the play explores:

- * children's feelings about not living with their birth families
- * children's worries about their parents being unwell, unreliable or absent

The cast (in order of appearance)

Harris Cain plays **BT**



Jesse Bateson plays **Leila**



Steve Watling is the Stage Manager
/adult character called **Jo**



Carla Garratt plays **Cleo**



THE STORY

- 1) Laila and BT are in children in a foster home who are waiting for a new child to arrive.
- 2) Cleo arrives, she is very shy. Leila isn't very welcoming. BT wants to play games.
- 3) Cleo says she's been away from her mum for a few days.



- 4) Cleo has a parachute in her bag. She thinks if she fixes it she can get back home.

- 5) Cleo has a bad dream.

- 6) The children have a midnight feast.



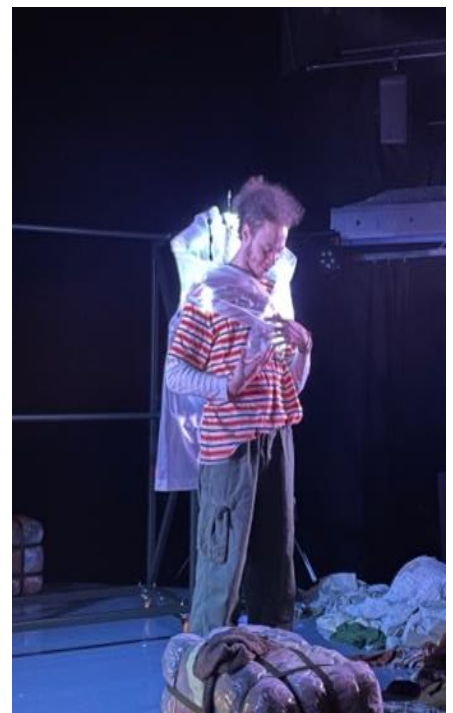
- 7) Cleo and Leila argue and Cleo breaks Leila's mirror. Cleo has a visit with her mum. She's confused it's only a visit not forever.

- 8) BT wants to play Grown Ups. BT misses his Dad and remembers playing with him.

- 9) Cleo comes back to the foster home, her mum missed their meeting.

- 10) Cleo has a dream she is lost at sea, looking for her mum.

- 11) It is Leila's Birthday and she misses her sister



12) BT visits a new family who might adopt him.

13) Cleo has a bad dream that her mum is a strange shape (this is two actors under a parachute).

13) Cleo runs away from the foster home to find her mum.

15) Cleo comes back to the foster home to tell Leila and BT that her mum is not able to look after her anymore. She's too unwell at the moment.



16) Leila and BT support her. They help her unpack her parachute and play games together.

17) They make den. A new place to live.

18) They talk about the future. BT will live with his new family. Leila will have her own flat and Cleo will see her mum once a month and live in the foster home.

19) Cleo wears her parachute. Her worry has become her strength.



To support your young person watching the show, offer them space to share their feelings & thoughts. Allow them to fully explore these by asking open questions (What do you think happened to Cleo?) While answering their questions, be honest if you do not know the answer; we hope the resource links will help you both. To balance, consider that all adults surrounding a young person (for example school, family, clubs) are all looking out for them. You may want to talk about who are the important people to your young person. Who would they talk to if they didn't feel they could tell you something difficult? You might want to share who supports you to help you look after them. Scan QR code for resource pack or head to tanglefeet.com

