Role cards: Children in different places

**Card 1:** My name is Ming. I live in Hong Kong. I am very lucky because I travel on its lovely harbour often. My father is captain of one of the Star Ferries which take hundreds of people across the harbour each day. I love standing on his ferry, looking at the tall buildings which line the water on all sides. These buildings are hotels, offices and apartment buildings. We live high up in a small flat in one of these apartment buildings. My father has to be careful driving the ferry because there are so many small boats and large ships criss-crossing the harbour at all times.

**Card 2:** My name is Jose. I live in Mindanao which is an island of the Philippines. My village is in the mountains near an active volcano which often rumbles. My parents work on a rice farm. The steep mountains have terraces which are like flat steps where the rice is planted. I am sometimes allowed to help with the water buffaloes that pull the plough. The rice fields are flooded with water to help the grain grow. We eat a lot of rice mixed with vegetables.

**Card 3:** My name is Li. I live in the city of Shanghai in China. We live in a large multi-storey block of flats which is very modern. On the banks of the river there are many tall modern offices and bank buildings. But my favourite place is our local market. It sells many kinds of vegetables and fruits, and in one section there is fresh meat such as chicken and pork. There are narrow lanes with stalls on each side selling goods. It is noisy, smelly and busy, but I love it.

**Card 4:** My name is Isa. I live in a village in the mountains of Papua New Guinea. The mountains here are so steep that there are few roads connecting us with the large towns on the coast. So small planes are used a lot for transport. There is a small airstrip for planes to land on the one flat area near my village. My parents have a small farm on which they grow vegetables such as yams, taro and other vegetables. We keep pigs and chickens as well.
Card 5: My name is Diya and I live in Mumbai, India. It is a very large and busy city. My mother works in a call centre, which is a large office where people sit at phones taking calls for a large company. The calls come from all over the world. My father works in the film industry. He is one of the people who makes the scenery. The film industry here is often called 'Bollywood'. Sometimes I am allowed to visit one of his film sets to see a rehearsal of a dance scene.

Card 6: My name is Yoko. I live in Tokyo in Japan. It is a very large modern city, with tall buildings and very busy traffic. I love the large department stores and indoor shopping centres. They have all kinds of electronic games and toys. Because Tokyo is so large, it takes a long time to go out to the country. My favourite place is Nikko where there are monkeys climbing around colourful old temples. In winter, that area with the mountains is covered in snow.

Card 7: My name is Lim. I live in Singapore, which is the name of our city, our country and our island. If you look at a map you will see why. Singapore is one of the smallest countries in the world, but it is also one of the wealthiest. Because the island is small we all live close to each other. My family lives in a tall block of flats. It is near the marina district which was once a swamp covered by the sea but was reclaimed to give Singapore extra land. I like to visit Sentosa Island where there are many entertainments, rides, hotels and beaches.

Card 8: My name is Rafiq. I live in Bangladesh on the coast near the delta of the River Ganges. My family all work on a farm here. The land is very fertile because of the annual floods, but these floods are sometimes very dangerous. Our village is small and our house is built on stilts so that the floodwaters can go underneath the house. We use a small boat to travel to other villages along the rivers.

Card 9: My name is Tren. I live in Cambodia in a fishing village on the edge of a lake called Tonle Sap. We live near the town of Siem Reap which has a lot of tourists who come to see the ancient ruins of Angkor Wat. My village is surrounded by small islands covered by grasses which seem to be floating in the lake. The lake has a lot of fish, but the amount of fish changes through the year because water flow in the lake changes direction with the seasons. I like going out in a small wooden boat to catch fish.
Card 10: My name is Dat. I live in a village near Hanoi which is the capital of Vietnam. My house is made of brick and wood, and it has two main rooms, one for eating and one for sleeping. We have electricity and get our water from a well. I do not visit Hanoi very often because we have no car. Hanoi is a busy city but it has a lot of old buildings along very narrow lanes. The streets are often jammed with bicycles and motor cycles, which make them very noisy and difficult to cross.

Card 11: My name is Arti. I live in Bali. It is part of Indonesia, but it seems like a different country because most people here are Hindus and there are many Hindu temples. We have different beliefs, customs and rituals to other Indonesians. I like watching the dancers who perform some of our best known stories at the temples. I live in a village near Ubud in the hills. If we travel further into the hills there are active volcanoes. If we travel down to the south coast there are dozens of hotels along the beaches. Thousands of tourists visit every year.

Card 12: My name is Ramelan. I live in Jakarta, the capital of Indonesia. It is a very large city, with a lot of people moving into it all the time. My house is small and we share it with my uncles, aunts and cousins. We have built extra rooms onto the back for them but it is still very crowded. When I walk along the road nearby I see many people living in wooden shelters along the railway line, with their cooking fires burning outside their shelter. Because it is always warm here, they do not get cold, but they need to protect themselves from heavy rain very often.

Card 13: My name is James. I used to live in Christchurch in New Zealand, but because the terrible earthquakes that damaged our house so much, we moved to Picton. This is where the ferry to the North Island leaves from, so it is a busy town. There are many deep arms of the sea nearby, and I like going in a boat along them. My father and mother were able to move here fairly easily because they both do most of their work at home using computers and online connections. My father is a designer and my mother is a writer.
**Card 14:** My name is Marco. I live in Timor Leste which is often called by its English name of East Timor. This is because it is the eastern half of the island of Timor. Most of the other half of the island is owned by Indonesia and it has a different name. We are a very new nation because we became an independent country in 2002. My village is on the coast near Dili, the capital. I am lucky because I go to school and have learned to read. A lot of children in my country do not get that opportunity. Because of our history, the Portuguese language is spoken by many people, and there are a lot of Roman Catholic churches.

**Card 15:** My name is Tola. I live in Bangkok, the capital of Thailand. It is a very busy and noisy city with more than seven million people. It is noted for its traffic jams. There are even people who use their cars as moving offices, doing business in them by phone and laptop. My cousin is a monk in a Buddhist temple. He has a shaved head and wears an orange robe to show that he is a monk. A lot of young men do this. My parents both work in electronics factories making parts for computers. They say that women are better at this because they have small hands for the delicate assembly work.

**Card 16:** My name is Francis. I live in Noumea, the largest town in New Caledonia. In our street there are lines of palm trees because our climate is tropical. Because New Caledonia is an island we have a lot of windy weather. The unusual fact about my country is that it is still a part of France, and French is the main language. My father works as a miner where nickel is mined. My mother is very interested in the tradition of wood carving on our island. Many tourists buy these carvings.