

Identity – Drama

Aims

To explore and understand the meaning of identity

To develop an understanding of character profiles

Activity description

For pupils to understand more about one of the characters in the play through developing a character profile and to think about their own identity.

Starter activity

'I am' Poem - read through the example poem completed for the character Josh, before creating your own poem. Individually, fill in the 'I am' poem. The 'I am' poem should help you start to think about your own identity. The poem is scaffolded with the beginnings of 12 sentences; complete the sentences to create a poem that gives a little information about you and your identity. Once you have completed your poem, share it with someone. What similarities and differences can you see?

Identity Discussion

'Identity: who a person is, or the qualities of a person or group that make them different from others.'

Identities are made up from lots of different aspects/characteristics. Some parts of identity are easy to see, e.g. hair colour, eye colour, how people dress. Some parts of identity cannot always be seen or cannot be seen at all, e.g. what people believe, where people were born or a person's values. Identity is on the inside as well as the outside. It is both who we are and who we want to be.

Individually, in one large group or in several small groups, list the aspects that make up a person's identity. Try to think of as many as you can. Remember, identity is much more than just how we look.

Main activity:

Using the character profile template sheet, think about the identity of one of the 3 characters from the play. Listen to your chosen character's monologue and the car trip scene as a starting point. This will give you some information; you will need to use your own ideas and imagination to fill in some parts.

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Use the 'characteristics list' for ideas. Characteristics are traits that make up a person's personality, for example someone might be caring, rude or funny. Personality forms part of a person's identity.

Example 'I Am' Poem

I am... Josh.
I wonder... what my future will be like.
I see... nothing but empty fields for miles and miles.
I want... people to know who I really am.
I feel... happy I have friends that I can trust.
I belong... in Lincoln, back with my Dad.
I hope... my mum will understand I don't believe what she does.
I dream... about my life going back to how it was before I moved.
I believe... that there is no God.
I am... Josh.

I Am Poem.

I worry... about not going to the same school as Beth and Ali.
I understand... people might not agree with what I believe.
I am...
I wonder...
I see...
I want...
I feel...
I belong...
I worry...
I understand...
I hope...
I dream...
I believe...
I am...



Resource Sheet 1



Character Profile Template

Character

Name:

Age:

Gender:

Where they live:

Who they live with:

Appearance

(Draw a picture of the character):

Beliefs:

Likes:

Dislikes:

A secret they keep:

A special place to them:

A special possession they have:

Personality characteristics:

Hobbies & interests:

Ambition for the future:

A problem or challenge they have:

Resource Sheet 2



Characteristics list sheet

- Adventurous
- Ambitious
- Angry
- Arrogant
- Bossy
- Brave
- Busy
- Charitable
- Cheerful
- Childish
- Compassionate
- Confused
- Considerate
- Controlling
- Cooperative
- Courageous
- Curious
- Dishonest
- Energetic
- Forgiving
- Friendly
- Gentle
- Grumpy
- Happy
- Hard-working
- Helpful
- Honest
- Humble
- Imaginative
- Impatient
- Impulsive
- Independent
- Insensitive
- Joyful
- Keen
- Leader
- Loyal
- Messy
- Mischievous
- Moody
- Neat
- Optimistic
- Outspoken
- Playful
- Popular
- Principled
- Quick-tempered
- Quiet
- Religious
- Responsible
- Sad
- Self-confident
- Selfish
- Sensitive
- Shy
- Smart
- Stubborn
- Sympathetic
- Thoughtful
- Trusting
- Uncharitable
- Understanding
- Unselfish
- Wild
- Wishful

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Time required

45 minutes

Materials required

Example 'I am' poem

Character profile template sheet

Characteristics list sheet

Pen and paper

Drawing/colouring pencils (optional)

