

# Beliefs - Drama

## Aims

To understand that we all have different beliefs and that they can change  
To understand the beliefs of the characters in the audio play and how they change

## Activity description

Using the audio play, pupils will reflect on the different beliefs of the characters and their own beliefs. This activity works better in groups or a school setting.

## Starter activity

Imagine that there is a line running along the length of the room; at one end of the line is 'strongly agree', at the other end is 'strongly disagree'. Thinking about the following statements, stand on the line according to how you feel.

Pause after each statement and discuss with your group, or if you are alone, think about why you have chosen to stand there.

## Statements

1. One person can make a difference in the world
2. There is life after death
3. The world is a fair place
4. All people are born good
5. My life is controlled by fate
6. Alien life exists
7. People have the ability to change
8. All people are equal

## Main activity

Listen to the audio play sections very carefully. Pick one character from the play and think about what the character's beliefs are and how they change throughout the play. In groups, discuss what you have heard using the following prompts as a guide if needed:

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Beth believed...  
Then she...  
Now she believes...

Josh believed...  
Then he...  
Now he believes...

Listen to the audio play sections very carefully. Pick one character from the play and think about what the character's beliefs are and how they change throughout the play. In groups, discuss what you have heard using the following prompts as a guide if needed:

Beth believed...  
Then she...  
Now she believes...

Josh believed...  
Then he...  
Now he believes...

Ali believed...  
Then he...  
Now he believes...

In the same groups (or if alone, write down one's thoughts) reflect on your own beliefs and consider the statements below. Discuss what events might have changed your own beliefs:

I used to believe...  
Something happened...  
And now I believe...  
  
I used to not believe in...  
Something happened...  
And now I believe...

**Example:**

"I used to believe that the earth was flat because I can't see the curve when I am walking. Something happened, I was taught at school that the earth was round. I saw pictures, and I gained a better understanding of the earth's shape. Now I believe the world is round."

"I used not to believe in ghosts. Something happened and I saw a ghost. I was very confused and scared, but now I do believe in ghosts."

Discuss this for about 5 - 10 minutes, making sure each person has had time to share their ideas.

Now pick one example from the play and create a 'before, during and after' still image.

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A still image is like pressing the pause button on a remote control, taking a photo or making a statue. The images should be planned and rehearsed. When creating these, think about your facial expressions, the use of levels (standing up or crouching down) and using expressive gestures. Also think about where the stage area starts and ends, and where the audience is, making sure they can see what is happening.

Rehearse the three still images and movements altogether, ready to share with the group.

Now show the various still images to the other groups in the room. After each group has performed, discuss the following:

1. What happened in that example?
2. What was good about this one?
3. How did their beliefs change?
4. Why did their beliefs change?
5. With more time how could you improve this?

## **Time required**

45 minutes

## **Materials required**

Pen and paper, audio recordings of Our Place. (live link to put in)