

Name of Exercise: subtext extended task
Aim of Exercise: To further explore idea of subtext
Length 20-40 minutes
Headline/Summary (one sentence): A practical activity that allows students to see the subtext within a piece of writing
Possible themes/curriculum links: English History
Soft Skills/PHSE: Team work Confidence
Resources/Space required: Large open space
<p>Step by step:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Starting with the group sat in a circle read the stimulus and discuss the meaning. Using the activity plan for 'freeze-frame' create a freeze-frame that reflects this meaning. 2. Add some of the text to the freeze-frame e.g if a character speaks give the characters line to one or several of the students. This can also be done with a piece of narration. Ensure that the lines are delivered with the literal meaning. 3. Getting the class back into a circle discuss the possibility that this stimulus has a subtext – what is the hidden meaning? What happens if we deliver the lines in a different way? 4. Get the class back into the image and ask them to slightly change what they are doing in the freeze-frame to communicate the subtext rather than the literal meaning. Ask the students who deliver the text to say it in a different way to communicate the same subtext. 5. Rehearse snapping between the two images 6. Discuss the difference and how we communicate the subtext in the script.
Alternatives: (ideas from different practitioners/context)
<p>Follow Up Curriculum links/suggestions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - English – when looking at a text (e.g the poem 'Name Calling' by Charles Thompson) this activity can help unlock students ability to see things literally. What is hidden in the words we read? It can be used with any text that has alternative meanings depending on the reading - History – can be used to look at different historical viewpoints – maybe as an introduction to propaganda. -
<p>Follow Up Drama links/suggestions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Can create scenes based around the two different meanings

