

Lesson 4: Creative Writing

AIM	To explore how language is used to communicate ideas emotions.
OBJECTIVES	To identify examples of subjective and objective language. To understand the effect of bias in written communication. To explore different modes of communicating one idea. To write persuasively.
NATIONAL CURRICULUM LINKS	<i>QCA GCSE Criteria: 3.1</i> - Focus on extended individual contributions, group discussion and interaction, and drama-focussed activities. <i>GCSE Specifications (across all boards)</i> Speaking and Listening: - Explain, describe; - Explore, analyse, imagine; - Discuss, argue, persuade. Writing: - Inform, explain, describe; - Argue, persuade, advise; - Analyse, review, comment.
RESOURCES	Pens and paper
ACTIVITY	Intro: In the play, many of the characters have to deal with a range of emotions and feelings. Activity: Either: Ask your students to select one of the characters from the play and write a letter that the character might write to a problem page asking for advice. Or: Choose one of the characters yourself and ask your students to write a letter that the character might write to a problem page asking for advice. Suggestion:

Ask your students to write a letter that Maya's son might write either when he learns that his mother is alive and living in England or when he finds out she has Alzheimer's

When all the students have written their letters, ask some class members to read them out.

Collect them all in.

Discuss with your students:

- Actions that the characters could take to help them cope with their feelings.
- People and organisations that could help the characters cope with their feelings.

Redistribute to your class the characters' letters requesting help.

Ask your students to read them and then write an answer as if they were the advice columnist.

Alternative:

Ask your students to:

- Select one of the characters from the play and write an extract from their diary
- Select one of the characters from the play and write a monologue/speech where the character reveals: what they are feeling; why they are feeling like that; and the dilemmas that they are facing.