

## **TEACHER'S NOTES**

### **SECTARIANISM**

### **LAUGHTER LAB**

## **SELECTIVE HEARING**

### **LEARNING OUTCOMES:**

- Pupils will improve their understanding of how language is used in N Ireland
- Pupils will explore examples of how language is used in N Ireland to deliver a version of history that seems factual but may only be opinion
- Pupils will think about the consequences of not listening to each other's opinions
- Pupils will begin to realise that the two communities in N Ireland have parallel histories

### **SUGGESTED STRUCTURED ACTIVITIES TO REINFORCE LEARNING OUTCOMES:**

- Debate
- Workshops
- Role play
- Pupil journal
- Collages

### **RESOURCES:**

Video clip - Selective hearing (3 mins 18 secs) Located in Laughter lab, Sectarianism section.

Typed selection of statements from video clip (Appendix 2)

Statements template - a table to complete (Appendix 1)

**SUGGESTED TIMING:** 1 hour (depending on size, receptivity and ability of class)

### **LESSON SEQUENCE:**

#### **Preparation**

##### **Listening Game**

- Pupils are put into pairs
- Ask each pair to take it in turns to talk to each other on any topic for 30 seconds
- Ask pupils to discuss favourite football teams, singers, films, subjects, etc
- Inform pupils that each person in a pair must have opposite views on the film, subject, etc
- Tell pupils to express their opposing views in a non-threatening, non-aggressive manner

- Teacher demonstration  
Teacher chooses one pupil who thinks Manchester United is the best football team.  
Pupil: "Manchester United is the best football team ever. They've won every title going and they wash the floor with Liverpool every season."  
Teacher: "I agree with that. You're quite right. After all Liverpool won the European Champions League. So we're the best team in England, in fact the whole of Europe."
- Each pair has a go at the listening game  
(Teacher may decide to pick one or two pairs to re-enact their role-play to the whole group)

### **Video Clip**

- Before the pupils watch the video clip they are told that it is an extract from a comedy programme which is looking at how people in N Ireland (Protestants and Catholics) tend to listen to each other.
- Introduce pupils to some of the terminology from the clip (use lesson glossary if necessary). Write definitions on the whiteboard for pupils to take down.
- Write the following questions up on the whiteboard:
  - What attitude did they say N Ireland people used to have?
  - What attitude do they say people have now to our history?
  - Which one do you feel is the Catholic?
  - Which one do you feel is the Protestant?
  - are these two people really listening to each other? What makes you feel that?
- Students watch video clip.

### **Task**

- Give each pupil a handout containing a selection of statements from the video clip. (These statements can be printed off - see Appendix 2)
- Ask pupils to familiarise themselves with the statements bearing in mind the video they have just watched. (If they need to watch the video again with the typed-up statements they can.)

(This exercise is difficult due to the understanding required for the humour – teacher guidance will probably be necessary here.)

- Ask pupils to get into small groups (of three or four) and cut up the statements and sort them into 'Catholic statements' and 'Protestant statements'. (It might be helpful if pupils completed a 'Statements table' - template provided in Appendix 1).
- (Optional) Ask pupils (on blank boxes at bottom of transcript) to try and add some statements, like the ones from the video, to the Catholic and Protestant sides.
- To finish, pupils must label each statement – OPINION or FACT.  
(If pupils have used the 'Statements table' then they can add in this extra information.)
- Watch the video again to see if pupils' choices were correct.

## **Conclusion**

The class opens to a whole group discussion considering:

- Have you ever heard any of the statements from the video before?
- When you first heard the statements did you perceive them to be OPINIONS or FACTS?
- What do you think now?
- Can you share any new statements that you thought of?

## **Homework**

Pupils write into pupil journal their thoughts on above question and the lesson in general

## **EXTENSION ACTIVITIES:**

Sketch: pupils could create a humorous drama sketch on 'Why we have 'troubles' in N. Ireland?' featuring similar opinions/perceptions

News report: pupils could split into two large groups and produce a news report looking at the 'troubles' from a biased and humorous angle  
(Depending on time, this could take the form of a newspaper article or an audio or video piece)

## **LESSON GLOSSARY:**

Bigot: A person who has strong, unreasonable beliefs and thinks that anyone who does not have the same beliefs is wrong.

Coerce: To persuade someone forcefully to do something which they are unwilling to do.

Prejudice: When a person dislikes another for no good reason, or has formed a hostile opinion of someone before even getting to know them.

Prods: An offensive nickname for Protestants, often used by Catholics.

Province: A name often used to describe Ulster or Northern Ireland. It is based on the fact that Ireland is made up of four provinces - Ulster, Leinster, Munster and Connaught.

Taigs: An offensive nickname for Catholics, often used by Protestants.

United Ireland: Many people in Ireland believe that Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland should become one country and be ruled by the Irish government with no British involvement. This would then be a "United Ireland".

**APPENDIX 1****Statements - Catholic or Protestant?**

CATHOLIC	PROTESTANT	OPINION OR FACT?

**APPENDIX 2****Jumbled Transcript**

The Protestants, I think we would all agree, arrived here 400 years ago. They robbed the Catholic land. They drove us up to the hills like so many sheep

Roman Catholics are breeding like rabbits. What we need now is a compulsory programme of sterilisation for Taigs.

We cannot coerce a million Protestants into a united Ireland. So we have got to find some other way of getting rid of them.

We will not hesitate to use the ballot box as a weapon.

These early settlers were fine, decent, hard-working Protestant stock. What did they find when they got here? They found a wasteland; a bog.

They did their best to brutalise our language, our culture, our traditions

Basically a wall is what's required from Newry right round the province, up to Londonderry.

We are going to soon outbreed you Prods within the next 20 or 30 years. That's going to enable us to actually vote for a united Ireland.

That's very encouraging.

Our struggle continues today to right those wrongs.

The whole dirty, unclean, unwashed, bloodthirsty shower of them are hell bent on spreading their popery worldwide and bringing down our wee state.

They built towns, they built cities, they started up industries, basically they transformed Ulster into the garden that we have today.

Our Gaelic culture, as he says, is flourishing. Our population is young and rousing and vibrant.

If they were all to die tonight, God forbid, the whole fascist million of them, they would go straight to hell for the catalogue of war crimes that they have perpetrated against our people.