

Key Stage 4

Career Resources for English Teachers

(Career Education Guidance Objective 11)

Career Progression Routes

STAR OR EXTRA?

The lesson aim is for students to understand the progression routes open to them and compare critically these options and explain and justify the range of opportunities they are considering.

The outcomes will be an acceptance speech for the 'Movie of Your Life', which is set 10yrs in the future acknowledging personal achievements and thanking those involved.

Question: Do you see yourself as a star or as an extra?

Look at these case studies.



Anne Frank

An ordinary girl living in an extraordinary time. She was one of 6,000,000 Jews exterminated by the Nazis – these included writers, composers, artists, lawyers, bankers, doctors and yet their names are not remembered in the same way as hers.

In life she would have been seen as an extra; someone without whom the lawyers, doctors and artists would not exist. And yet her diary has allowed generations to glimpse and gain some understanding of the Holocaust.



Rubin 'The Hurricane' Carter

A boxer in the 1960s who spent 20 years in jail for a murder he claims he did not commit. Bob Dylan wrote a song about his case in the 1970s; the World Boxing Council awarded him an

honorary championship in 1993 and Denzil Washington played him in the hit movie 'The Hurricane' in 1999.

Both Anne Frank and Rubin Carter were people living ordinary lives but circumstance and opportunity combined to allow their skills and strength of character to be seen and appreciated by a wider audience.

Question: Are they stars or extras?

Task 1 (in small groups)

What do the main characters in the following films have in common?

Barry B. Benson(Jerry Seinfeld) in 'Bee Movie'.

Rocky Balboa(Sylvester Stallone) in the 'Rocky' films.

Forest Gump (Tom Hanks) in 'Forest Gump'.

Other examples abound – teachers should feel free to use their own here.

Students might identify them as ordinary, lower class, outsiders (in that they do not belong to the ruling class).

Question: Are they stars or extras?

Look at these images and think about who the stars might be.



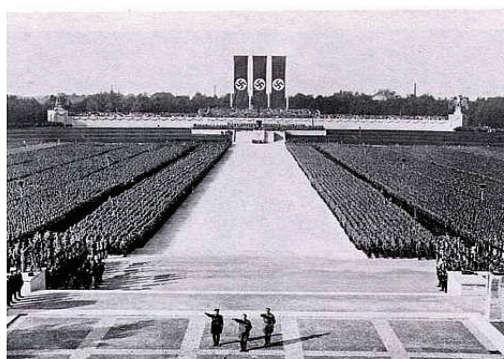
Eric Cantona jumps into the crowd.



A lone man defies tanks in Tiananmen Square



Amy Winehouse and the paparazzi .



Adolf Hitler at Nuremberg



Bobby Moore lifts the World Cup for England in 1966 in front of 100,000 fans at Wembley.

Imagine these images without the extras – the crowds, the paparazzi, the man in the shirt standing in front of the tanks.

Question: Star or Extra?

We can't all be the star at the centre of the stage but we all have our own skills. Without the extras the big picture would be empty, whether it be Anne Frank giving an insight into the horrors of fascism; Rubin Carter fear and loathing in the American south or you and I identifying our own strengths and finding a way to use them effectively.

Task 2 (Split class into 6 groups)

Each group should be given copies of one of the resource materials;

- Martin Luther King's acceptance speech for the 1964 Nobel Peace Prize
<http://nobelprizes.com/nobel/peace/MLK-nobel.html>
- Halle Berry Oscar acceptance speech for best actress 2002
<http://www.americanrhetoric.com/speeches/halleberryoscarspeech.htm>
- Derek Bentley letter to family before his execution
<http://chriseccleston.com/video-clips/movies/let-him-have-it/>
- Shona in 'Top Girls' by Caryl Churchill. (Act 2 Sc 3 'My present job at present.') pub Methuen **ISBN-10:** 1408106035 – or ask your drama department.
- Mayor praising Claire Zachanassian in Durrenmat's 'The Visit', ('My dear lady, fellow citizens') pub Jonathan Cape **ISBN-10:** 0224009141 – or ask your drama department.
- Daniel Day-Lewis Screen Actors Guild acceptance speech 2008 – tribute to Heath Ledger

Study these speeches and prepare to feedback to the rest of the group.

What are the key points being made?

Are they speaking about themselves or others?

Task 3.

Each group feeds back to the class describing the context and content of their speech.

*(**Some teachers may choose to rotate the scripts among the groups rather than opt for the whole class feedback. The internet links refer to a mixture of video clips and text which would allow for mixed activity as well as allowing teachers to direct less literate students to the video clips.)*

Task 4. Writing an acceptance speech

You are 30 years old and have been awarded a Lifetime Achievement Award. The glitzy, glamorous ceremony is taking place at a top London hotel and the audience is made of your family, friends, work colleagues and peers. Before you make your acceptance speech you are shown a movie of your life so far – all of your achievements.

You must write the speech that you would give.

Consider the following:

Where do you want to be in 10/15yrs time?

What do you need to do for this to become a reality?

Do you need help from anyone?

What will make you happy – money, family, helping others, creating something new, writing, sport?

Daniel Day-Lewis

Outstanding Performance by a Male Actor in a Leading Role



DANIEL DAY-LEWIS / Daniel Plainview – *There Will Be Blood* (Paramount Vantage)

DANIEL DAY-LEWIS: Thank you. I'm very, very proud of this. Thank you so much for giving it to me. And I'm very proud to be included in that group of wonderful actors this year.

You know, for as long as I can remember, the thing that gave me a sense of wonderment, of renewal, the thing that teased me with the question, how is such a thing possible, and then dare you to go back into the arena of one more time, with longing and self-doubt, jostling in the balance, it's always been the work of other actors. And there are many actors in this room tonight, including my fellow nominees, who have given that sense of regeneration and...

Heath Ledger gave it to me. [applause] In "Monster's Ball," that character that he created, it seemed to be almost like an unformed being, retreating from themselves, retreating from his father, from his life, even retreating from us, and yet we wanted to follow him, and yet we're scared to follow him almost. It was unique. And then, of course, in "Brokeback Mountain," he was unique, he was perfect. [applause] And that scene in the trailer at the end of the film is as moving as anything that I think I've ever seen. And I'd like to dedicate this to Heath Ledger. So, thank you very much. Thank you so much. [applause]