

GCSE

Drama Example Materials

Candidate Six

Edexcel
GCSE 2009
Unit 1: Drama Exploration

Candidate I

Unit 1 Documentary response: Loneliness and Isolation

(1172 words)

Reflection: How was the theme of loneliness and isolation explored through the stimulus materials? How did we explore this theme practically?

When I first saw "little miss sunshine", I noticed that there was a connection between loneliness and isolation and the ideas in the movie. The link is first seen when Olive first stands up on the stage to perform, she feels and looks lonely on stage because she is so different from the other contestants, it is only when her family comes to join her, she starts to feel normal. The second link seen is when she actually dancing, she is isolated from the rest of contestants as she dances in a different, inappropriate way. The theme of isolation is suggested throughout the stimulus because she is so different compared to the other "brain-washed" pageant entrants and insecure parents and she is isolated from them but at the same time they are isolated from normal life.

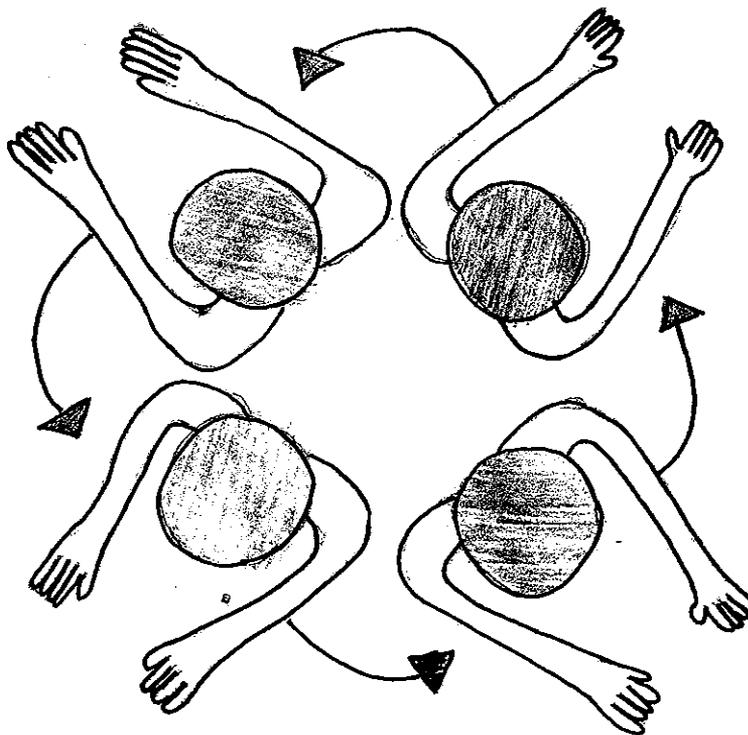
"Little miss sunshine" is similar to other stimuli we used to explore the idea of loneliness such as I am Alan Partridge, and The "Lost Persons Area" photograph. Alan Partridge is similar because the choices he made have made him lonely and isolated from the rest of the world and this is just the same with Jed his stalker, but little in LMS parents made the choices for their children. although she has been isolated from everyone else at the pageant. But this particular one (from 'and the hotel room held only him') is lonely AND isolated because he is doing the same thing everyday which has left him outside of the community (isolated) as well as having no friends (lonely). Finally, the lost person's area is apparent that they are all lonely because they have no one and isolated because they are lost.

We explored this idea practically by doing freeze-frames of the Hotel room hobo and using mime to join them together and by hot-seating Jed and Alan as well as by bringing the lost persons situation to life and this made us think about the all different ways there are to be lonely and sad.

By doing this we were showing that the world of beauty isn't all it seems and can make you very lonely like the little girl in group played by Tamara who ended up on the floor with the rest of the group shouting at her at the same time "You will never be beautiful!"

The Hotel Room Held Only Him – Use of Drama medium

Space, Height and movement: Four members of my group stood closely together facing outwards with our bodies tall and our arms stretched out straight in front of us. We all used exactly the same position and gesture apart from the fifth actor who was outside the circle and to the right and mimed switching the fan on and off. We were closed and had no contact with the lonely character. The main four did the movement of turning in a sharp motion and making a whirring sound together to make us seem like a real fan



Physical and Facial Expression: The physical and facial expressions we used were totally flat and neutral because we were showing what a boring job it was being a fan doing the same action over and over a bit like the man's day where he did the same things over and over with no contact from anyone. We wanted to add to reasons why he seemed depressed through our physical theatre fan.

Protection - Use of Drama strategies

Whose perspective did the strategy explore?	How did you use thought-tracking and monologue change the improvisation to show the different perspectives?	Did your opinion of the perspective character change because of the strategy?	Evaluate how effective the strategy was.
<u>Father</u>	We used monologue to show that the father loved his daughter even though he hurt her and shouted at her	Yes my perspective changed because I felt sorry for the character of the dad after his speech.	Yes it was effective because it clearly conveyed a different point of view
<u>Youngest daughter</u>	The thought-tracking showed her reactions but these didn't change much because she looked frightened quite well in the normal improvisation	No your opinion didn't really change except you did feel even sorer for the daughter	It was really effective piece, because it showed the daughter dealing with problems that an adult would face
<u>Grandfather</u>	The grandfather's monologue showed how he loved his son but hated what he was doing	No your opinion didn't change but it was interesting to think that the dad was somebody's child too.	The scene was effective because you believed in the grandfather stopping the violence and protecting the children.

Moderator's Commentary - Unit 1 Documentary Response

Note to centres: The Moderator commentary is to support centres. Teacher-Assessors are not expected to replicate in this level of detail.

Candidate Six

The candidate chose to connect two of the explored stimuli in the first part of his documentary response. He makes clear cross-reference between these stimuli and shows a good level of understanding of the connections between them as well as to the theme of loneliness and isolation. There is also a connection to the practical work as part of this reflection (see bottom p.1) where the candidate has clearly considered the issue in connection with the theme and the strategies used.

He has then chosen to look at the use of strategies lined with the stimulus materials although his comments also refer to drama medium. His comments on the catwalk improvisation task (p.2) are largely on a personal level but there is also a sense of analysis for example the comment which makes a connection to the backing track used (first paragraph p.2)

There is a good level of detail in the response to the hot-seating task with an understanding of how to do the activity in role and a thoughtful comment about what the candidate had learned about Loneliness and Isolation/ obsession from the task (see bottom p.2)

There was also a sense of detail to the task which explored the creation of the 'hobo' character and a good understanding of the use of Dram medium here for example the comment box on movement and facial expression which explore the candidate's intentions. There were evaluative comments about what this achieved within this task and although these did tend to be rather general, there was a sense of understanding present, for example the comment about the lack of sympathy created by imitating drug/ alcohol abuse.

Overall this was a slightly inconsistent Documentary Response with a sense of confusion to some of the written expression but nonetheless a sense of understanding of the stimuli and the theme in connection with the 6 hour practical.

The candidate was assessed as a low band 3 for this piece of documentary response.