

Whose Face Do You See?

Introduction

This kit is based on the short story by Melvin Burgess. It is about an adolescent girl who is in a coma. It is also about her family and the dilemma they face when the doctors tell her there is no hope for their daughter. The story is gripping in that there are two narrators – one is the girl in the coma, and the other her mother. Their two dialogues weave around each other, diverge, and finally coalesce.

The kit based on this short story is dynamic and takes the full range of events that the story suggests and explores them with some passion.

The dynamic of the kit is different from earlier BritLit kits and is an important step in the evolution of the series and the project itself. Moving away from ideas of just focussing on the characters and the context of the story (important as these are) this kit goes on to explore how these elements can be explored before and after reading the story, and so the material is mainly divided into pre-reading and after-reading activities.

There is a lot of material to get through but, like all BritLit kits, the expectation is that teachers will pick and choose only the bits they want to use or think they will find useful. This is why they are called 'kits' rather than packs or courses – teachers can build their own modules from them.

This kit was written by a group of Portuguese teachers of English who originally came together during a NILE course in Norwich in 2004 and who, as a result, produced the 'Visiting Time' BritLit kit in 2005. This group – dubbed the 'Survivors' – have remained a powerful influence within the BritLit team since they came together, and have provided teacher-training workshops as a result of their experiences, as well as compiling this latest kit.

The 'Survivors' are Ana Clara Almeida, Luiza Nora, deliade Rabaça, Ângela Coelho, Isabel Filipe, Helena Moura, Rosa Castro, Isabel Martins, Mónica Carvalho, Nazaré Graça, Paula Simões, Margarida Costa, Graça Valério, Teresa Soeiro and Carmo Leitão – aided and abetted by mentors Claudia Ferrada Moi and Alan Pulverness, and through the occasional hot meals by Fitch O'Connell

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April 2006