



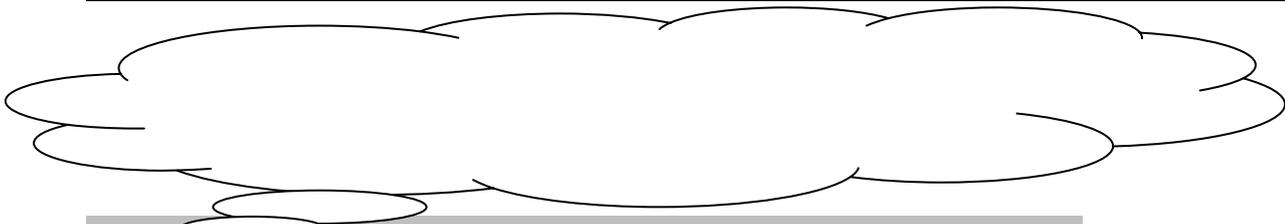
World Words

Be Near Me

Andrew O'Hagan

Student Activities

Pre-listening Activities 1



Imagine. There is a community - a town, a city if you like - which can be divided into smaller communities. Some of these communities are rich and powerful, but many more are not so rich, not so powerful. Poor, perhaps. In which ways can these less powerful communities find a common voice? What kind of things can they do together to make their community stronger? Think about:

social activities

schools

families

sports

Imagine. From one of these communities, a sports team emerges. What will it need to do to help that community feel prouder and stronger? What might be the ultimate goal of that sports team to make that community feel good about itself?



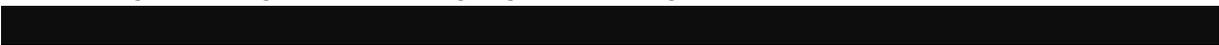
You are going to hear an extract from a story which involves pride in a community through sport. Which sport do you think is being described in these excerpts:

You could see the fans giving it full pelt in the terraces. The songs.

When Thompson scored, it was a free kick, okay.

Larsson skipped over the ball and Thompson blooterred it and the wall just crumbled.

It went right through their bloody legs. What a goal.



Pre-listening Activities 2

1. You will hear the author talking about the extract and some students discussing their reaction to it. Read through the following comments which are made in the broadcast and decide first who was speaking - the author or the students - and then decide if they were discussing the **setting**, what the **voices** used in the extract sounded like, the **language** used, **relationships**, or on being a **football fan**. Then listen to the broadcast to check your answers.

- a. "The language he uses, the way the words are accented - the English don't talk like this."
- b. "He explains the way that the players played in detail. If you're not a fan of football you won't know all this."
- c. "There's a lot of tribal competition going on in this extract too."
- d. "Blooted...is also used, as here, to describe kicking the ball so hard that it seems to be out of control but actually it is going to hit its target."
- e. "For me something magical happens on this journey. The children get to see Scotland as they have never seen it before."
- f. "This just goes to show that maybe he and his father are not that close and because of soccer and the team they support, maybe this can bring them together."
- g. "They had transformed themselves by this journey. They would never live as they had lived before."
- h. "There's also a difference between Father David - the rather middle class story teller - and the children who come from a background that's much more deprived."
- i. "I have lots of brothers, each of whom is a fan of Celtic Football Club so I had to talk to them to remind myself about their great love of the game."
- j. "I've always been interested in relationships overall and I wanted this book to address not only what it was like in Mark's family ..."
- k. "The schoolchildren's way of talking is very much the way I spoke when I was a kid myself."
- l. "One of the things that happens to Scots dialect is that you often find words that have been shortened, so you see here Mark says '*intit*' rather than '*isn't it?*'"
- m. "It is a good country, a good place to live, the way it was described in the story."

	Setting	Voices	Language	Relationships	Football fan
The author					
The students					



After Listening Activities

- How many people were in the boat?
 - What is the usual relationship between Mark and his father, according to Mark?
 - Why did watching the match on TV change this? How temporary do you think the change was?
 - Explain why there is reference to Mark's father, and Mark referring to the narrator as Father.
- Explain the life changing effect of the journey to Aisla Craig on the children according to the interview with the author.



Aisla Craig from the Scottish mainland