



## **World Words**

### **The Same Earth**

Kei Miller

# **Student's Activities**

## Pre-Listening Activity 1

You are going to hear part of a story. First, by answering the questions below, you can invent your own story based on the same circumstances.

1. What were the children doing by the river?
2. What were Jonathon's shoes doing by the side of the river?
3. What did the rest of the children do when they saw Jonathon's shoes?
4. What did they see shining on a rock in the middle of the river?
5. When they ran back to the village, what did they tell Jonathon's mother?
6. What did Jonathon's mother do?
7. What did the rest of the villagers do when they went back to the river?
8. How does your story end?



## Pre-listening Activity 2

You will hear the author talking about an extract from his novel, 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 unfamiliar **language** that is found in the dialogue, or the **description** of the setting, or perhaps the **characters** we meet. On the other hand, perhaps they are discussing the mythical character, **River Mumma** or even why the book is called '**The Same Earth**'. Then listen to the broadcast to check your answers.

- a. "First of all they live in a rural area and that's why they just run from the river to tell the mother that he's drowned in the river."
- b. "I've moved all around the world and I found, eventually, that we all the same people"
- c. "She comes into Jamaican folklore partly from Africa, from the character called Water Mumma, and partly from the English mermaid. She becomes a combination of both."
- d. "I know people like Jonathon and I know people like Miss Dorcas. In a way they are all invented, but then they're invented because we all are, in a way."
- e. "We know legends don't exist, or they're not true so I'm just wondering why you use something like this to write a story."
- f. "I try to make (the children's) voices texture the story, so they say that *he was drowned* rather than *he drowned* and when they ask the question they said *don't they all had told him* which is how kids in that area would speak."
- g. "I think Jonathon is a risk taker, a very naughty boy. We all know who because we're all one of those."
- h. "We all have the same concerns and conflicts. By the end all the characters in the village, they realise that even though life had taken them to all kinds of different places, no matter where they were, they were always on the same earth."
- i. "When the children were talking we found that a lot of their words were put in ... wrong, the tense was off or they used *don't* at the wrong place."

	language	description	characters	River Mumma	'The Same Earth'
The author					
The students					



## After Listening Activities

A. The story you have just heard is an example of a practical joke (or prank) that went wrong - that went too far. Some people have stories of other 'jokes' that went wrong. Ask around the class to see if this has happened to any of your colleagues.

B. One day of the year when it is usual to play practical jokes is April 1st - April Fool's Day. Here are some (real) practical jokes that people played on their friends or family. As you read them think about what might have gone wrong and then discuss how the risk might have been avoided.

On April Fool's Day my sister came home from college for her upcoming birthday and stayed at our house. She likes to take long showers so, I took a food colouring tablet and unscrewed the shower head and put it under it and put the shower head back on. The next day she was blue.

On April Fool's Day last year, I did a real neat prank on my sister. I got a few of my older adult friends to dress up as immigration cops and arrest her. She kept saying over and over that she was British. Before they hauled her off I burst in and said April fools ha ha ha ha. She was fuming!

On April Fool's, have your mate call your friend or family member and in a game show host voice tell them they have just won a lottery and they will be coming to their front door with a cheque in just a few minutes. Ring their doorbell and say, "April Fools!"

Take the newspaper and super glue them together(the thicker the better). I did this for April Fool's Day and it was funny to see the reaction!!!

We pull this same prank on my grandfather every single April Fools and he never catches on. Every morning he makes a pot of coffee and he loves his coffee sweet with sugar and cream. But instead of sugar we substitute his sugar with SALT. So when he puts his 3 spoonfuls of "SUGAR" in he is getting a cupful of salty coffee. He then proceeds to pour out the whole pot thinking we contaminated his pot of coffee not thinking is just the sugar bowl.

### C. Language Point

This story is written in a style which reflects certain characteristics of Caribbean speech. Read through the text again and make a note of all the words which show this non-standard pattern and then write the standard English version next to it.

Would the story have worked as well if the author had written it in standard English?