

Just Like the Others



Just Like the Others is a touching short film made by New Zealand filmmaker Jackie van Beek while she was living in England. Calvin lives with his mum, grandma and two little brothers in a housing estate in central London. He wants to fit in with the other kids on the estate, but he can't afford an iPod. With the help of his family, he has to find a way to make his own music.

Writer/director: Jackie van Beek

Drama / 10 minutes / Rated G / 2009

Theme: Judging others

Key Competency: Relating to others

ABOUT THE FILM:

Jackie made her second film, *Just Like the Others*, with a community group living in Hackney, London. The story centres around the pressure to conform and how a family with little money is resourceful and creative in finding a way to resolve Calvin's problem.

ABOUT THE DIRECTORS:

Jackie van Beek works as an actress, writer and director in theatre and film. She has made six short films and is in development with her first feature length film. In addition to being included in this kit, her first two films, *One Shoe Short* and *Just Like the Others*, are being used as educational resources in Denmark, the UK, France and Australia.

EXPLORING CHARACTER

Enquiry Question:

What do we know about Calvin from this film?

■ WHOLE CLASS:

- + Would you want to be friends with Calvin? Why? Discuss with a partner, then share with the class.

■ GROUPS:

- + What examples can you find of Calvin being a kind person? Are they things he says or how he acts?

■ GROUPS:

- + How did you feel when Calvin was opening his birthday presents?
- + What would you do if that had been your gifts for your birthday?
- + Calvin is the main character in the story. Use a bubble map to describe Calvin. Use any examples from the film to explain how we know these things about Calvin.



Example of a bubble map created by children at Huapai District School doing this exercise.

■ INDEPENDENT:

- + *Write to describe:* Describe the character of Calvin, using evidence from the film to justify your statements and give further detail in your description.

EXPLORING THEME – JUDGING OTHERS

Enquiry Question:

How does the way people judge us affect our decisions?

■ WHOLE CLASS:

- + Why do you think it was so important for Calvin to have an iPod like his friends?

■ GROUPS:

- + In what ways was Calvin left out because he didn't have what others had?

■ INDEPENDENT:

- + Can you think of a time when you wanted to have something that all your friends had? Use a flow map to show what you did.
- + *Write to recount:* Use the flow map you made to help you write a recollection of the time you were like Calvin and wanted to have something to be just like the others.

■ WHOLE CLASS:

- + How did what other people said or did affect your decisions in the story you wrote?

EXPLORING NARRATIVE

Enquiry Question:

How do we select main events from a story?

■ WHOLE CLASS:

- + What do you think the main events are in the story?

■ GROUPS:

- + Choose the one event that you think was most important in telling this story about Calvin. Share back with the class what event you've chosen and why.

■ INDEPENDENT:

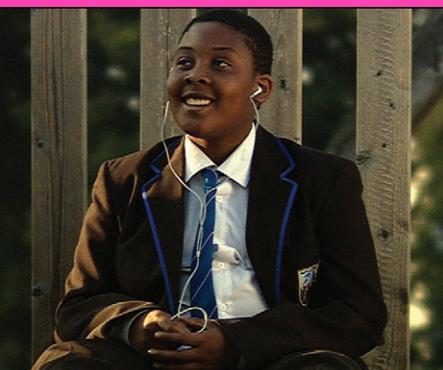
- + Use a flow map to sequence the main events in the story. Think carefully about what you feel are the most important parts of the story.

■ GROUPS:

- + Compare your flow maps in a group – has everyone chosen the same main points of the story? Why did people choose the main points they did?

■ INDEPENDENT:

- + *Write to explain:* Explain which events you think teach us the most about this character, and how we learn about the character through these events.



EXPLORING KEY COMPETENCIES – RELATING TO OTHERS

Enquiry Question:

How do we show we relate well to others when we are with our friends?

When we are showing the key competency of relating to others, we interact effectively with a diverse range of people in a variety of contexts. This competency includes the ability to listen actively, recognise different points of view, negotiate and share ideas. We are able to effectively communicate and work together with others.

■ WHOLE CLASS:

- + In what ways did Calvin demonstrate the key competency of relating to others?

■ GROUPS:

- + Who else in the film showed good skills of relating to others?

■ WHOLE CLASS:

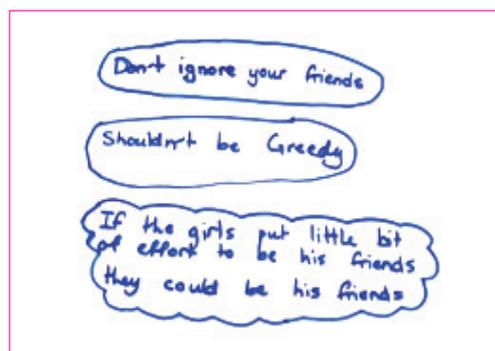
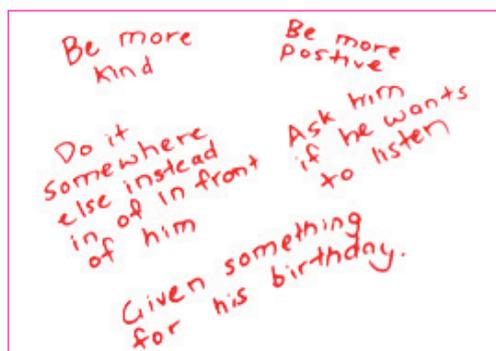
- + Who in the film showed that they were an effective communicator? Can you find any examples of this?

■ GROUPS:

- + Who in the film showed the least skill in relating to others?

■ INDEPENDENT:

- + Using examples from the film, what did the two girls do to show they were not good at relating to others? With the example of what they did do, put a suggestion of how they could better interact with Calvin.



Examples of how this lesson was completed by children at Stanhope Road School.