

FIRST STORY

TEACHING RESOURCES



**"There are things that I feel
are wrong in the world and
I want to shout about them"**

HANNAH KHALIL
PLAYWRIGHT



**INSIDE the
WRITER'S MIND**

STIMULUS



Think about something in the world that you feel is wrong. This could be an injustice or a prejudice you've seen. Perhaps it's bullying, or climate change. Something that you know and care about.

IDEATION

Write notes on:

- how you feel about this topic – why you care about it.
- everything you know about this topic.
- how you would change the world if you could.

You are going to write a dramatic scene between two characters – friends who disagree about this topic, or an aspect of it.

- Name your two characters.
- Place them in the scene – where are they? Briefly describe any scenery and sounds.
- Start writing the dialogue – who says what first?
- Write how the other character responds.
- Continue with the back-and-forth until the scene feels finished. Does one person win the argument? Does one person storm off?

Remember: these are friends so there may be jokes, personal history, affection – don't just make it a debate!

EDITING

- 1 Have two people read your scene out loud. How does it sound to you?
- 2 Make notes for any parts that feel clunky or jarring. Can you make the characters speak more naturally?
- 3 Rewrite and repeat until the scene feels like it flows and says something interesting about your topic.

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RESOURCE AUTHOR

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This resource is by Dan Simpson, an accomplished writer, performer, producer, educator, and First Story Writer-in-Residence.

Dan has been Poet-in-Residence at Glastonbury Festival, Waterloo Station, National Trust Stowe, Imperial College London, and St Albans Cathedral. His two collections of poetry are *Applied Mathematics* and *Totally Cultured* (Burning Eye Books).

Dan delivers primary and secondary school classes around the UK. He also runs both creative writing and professional development sessions for adults.

Find out more at dansimpsonpoet.co.uk.



DAN'S RECOMMENDED READING

Writing a Play
by Steve Gooch

The Art and Craft of Playwriting
by Jeffrey Hatcher

The Art Of Dramatic Writing
by Lajos Egri

This resource is one of six published in 2022 by First Story, in partnership with BBC Teach.

These resources complement a new collection of short films about creative writing, *Inside the Writer's Mind*, produced by BBC Teach.

Featuring fantastic contemporary writers and packed with tips and insights, discover all eight of the films among the English Literature resources on the BBC Teach website, [here](#).

Explore all six of our accompanying free resources at firststory.org.uk/bbc-teach.

FIRST STORY

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