

Career Insight Conversations/Michael Punter

This creative challenge was set by Michael Punter, Writer

Creative Challenge: Writing drama - tools and tricks to get you started



Writing Drama - a play

People: It's all about them and what they want and what they do to get it

Beginnings: Starting in the middle of something.

These beginnings work because they are dynamic and grab our attention, encourage us to consider the past and what has just happened and to predict what might follow in the future.

Great example is Shakespeare's Macbeth! We meet three strange women on a heath who are already in the middle of something...

How do we get from a great beginning into the depths of a play?

Action: What does the character want? The simplest actions are often the best. Sometimes it is a simple question such as 'Can I stay here?'

Events: Are things that modify or change the actions/wants/ambitions of your characters. They can come from interaction with other characters, from personal discovery or out of the blue.

Structure: It might help to think of your story in these simple terms:

- Act One: Get your characters up a tree.
- Act Two: Throw stones at them
- Act Three: Get them down or maybe throw more stones

Now you can get started! Start with your characters and go from there.

Use this resource sheet in conjunction with the accompanying short film, to complete specific creative tasks and challenges either in the classroom or as homework. Tasks suitable for KS4-5 students include problem solving, communication and literacy skills, working as a team and creative thinking. This resource can be useful in supporting your school to deliver Gatsby Benchmark 4 - Linking the curriculum learning to careers. The creative challenges can be used to support activities in the classroom or for setting homework.

These resources have been produced by Culture Shift in conjunction with a series of Career Insight Films. They are based on the approach taken at our Creative Café career events. You can download all six resource sheets and watch the films at <https://www.cultureshift.org.uk/careerinsightconversations> to undertake the various real-life Challenges and Briefs set by Creative Professionals.

Each film includes professional introduction, Q&A session, top tips for being successful in a specific industry and a task-based challenge.

BIOGRAPHY: Michael Punter, Writer

When Michael was a child, his grandparents retired to Hastings, moving into a house in Athelstan Road. He visited often and the town has always had happy memories for him. In 1996 he made the decision to move to Hastings from London and raise his own family in the town.

"I find the area so inspiring. It's the point in time and space where a language and culture changed - Anglo-Saxon to Norman - and that moment is still sort-of here! I can't imagine living anywhere else now. I set my 2009 play Darker Shores near Rye, and recently invented a university at Icklesham for my 2019 play The Last Pilgrim. Hastings is full of creative people, quietly getting on with the business of making great things. It's part of my process now".

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