Exploring the interview format

Starter Activity

Can you think of places where young people are interviewed?

Activity 1: Reading, Listening and Discussion

Listen to Roger Mills reading from his book **The Interview.**

**Discuss:**

* What is the interview about?
* Who is the interviewer and who is the interviewee?
* How can you tell?
* Do you think it is a positive or negative experience for Roger?

Activity 2: Reading

Now read **The Interview** with Roger Mills from pages 6 to 15 and answer the following questions:

* What makes the story tick?
* How many different points of view are there?
* What kind of questions does the interviewer ask?
* How would you describe the tone of **The Interview**?

Make a note of any unfamiliar words and use a dictionary to define them. Then put them into a new sentence to show you understand their meaning.

Activity 3: Role Play

In small groups:

* On one side of the table write what each character is saying and on the other side what you think the character really means or feels. Give reasons for your interpretation.
* Role play: Act out the scene. Two people speak the dialogue from Roger’s story, others hold subtitles underneath saying what the characters really mean or feel.

Activity 4: Writing

Write a short account of a time you were interviewed. It can be real or imagined. Use these questions to help frame your writing.

* Who interviewed you?
* How did they talk to you?
* Was what you said the same as what you really felt or meant? If not, how did they differ?
* How did you sit or stand and what gestures did you use?
* How did your interviewer sit or stand and what gestures did they use?
* How did it end?
* What was fair or unfair about how things were handled?

Activity 5: Homework preparation

**Do a better job than G. Jackson, the careers officer. Can you give a friend, sibling or neighbour a more positive interview experience?**

* Prepare a list of 10-15 open and closed questions to discover your interviewee’s ambitions, passions and any work experience.
* Pay attention to your interviewee’s gestures, silences and their tone of voice. Were some things left unsaid? What do you think they were?
* Document the questions and answers in your interview and suggest some possible jobs based on the interview. Here is an example interview done by Roger Mills’ friend Richard Gray.

**Meet the young Roger Mills   
Date of birth:** 13th May, 1954.  
**Location:** I live in Stoke Newington and go to school in Clapton. It’s only a fifteen minute walk.

**Nickname:** ‘Bouncer’, due to my springy walk.

**Parents:** Fred and Ivy. My dad is a painter and decorator – and I have a sister called Christine.

**Height:** Could do with being a bit taller to be honest.

**Favourite food:** Mostly chips.

**Favourite Film:** ‘Spartacus’. The slaves are revolting.

**Favourite actor/actress:** Sean Connery in the James Bond film Goldfinger and Shirley Eaton as his Golden Girl. Perhaps I’ll be a spy when I grow up.

**Favourite Groups**: The first LP I bought was the Beatles ‘Help’, but the first single I bought was ‘Get Off Of My Cloud’ by The Rolling Stones. So it’s draw.

**Hobbies:** My fingers are covered in glue from making little plastic aeroplanes.

**Likes:** Hammer Horror films. Anything with monsters and creepy stuff in it – although I’m too young to go the cinema to see them!

**Dislikes:** School homework. Maths are a mystery to me.

**What makes you laugh:** Old Marx Brothers films.

**Personal ambition:** To grow my hair long like the groups and be an artist of some sort: a painter, or a musician, or an actor. Maybe a writer!