



TRUTH AND LIES

This worksheet accompanies Davey Anderson's play for TAG, Liar. Below are ideas for practical drama activities and questions to provoke discussion about one of the play's main themes, lying. We hope you enjoy using this material before or after having seen the show.

WHO'S A GOOD LIAR?

- Are you a good liar? What makes a good liar?
- Play Two Truths and a Lie. In threes label yourselves A, B and C. A, tell two facts about yourself and one lie. B and C try to guess which one is the lie.
- Swap so everyone has a go at lying
- Who WAS the best liar?
- How can you tell when someone is lying?

SPINNING A YARN

You have to have a good imagination to be a good liar.

- In pairs, A and B, take turns to invent a wild story about something that happened to you. A begins 'You'll never believe what happened to me today, I was walking down the street and...' A, you can then invent anything you like.
- B prompts A every time they pause or run out of steam by saying 'Is there more?!' or 'What happened next?'
- B then tries to re-tell A's lie with A acting it all out, being *everything*.
- Swap over.
- Whose big fat lie did you enjoy the most?

Stevie: I'm telling ye! He's a pure liar. Cos first, right, he telt us his dad was a fireman. Then he says he was in the jail. And then he said he was gonnae get his dad to gie me a doing. I says tae him, how's he gonna gie me a doing if he's in the jail? And he's like that...em...aye...but...he's getting let out.

- Are some kinds of lies worse than other kinds of lies? How are they worse?



BRANDED A LIAR

Imagine if people accused you of lying all the time even though you weren't. How would that feel? What would you do?

Jeannie: My wee lassie? Why, she'd never telt a lie in her whole entire life. But here she was getting accused of lying. So...My wee lassie thought to herself...well, if they're all gonnae take me for a liar, then a liar is what I'll be. And she started making things up...Claiming she had the second sight. She could see intae the future... Oh she had them all trembling in their boots...She'd become that good at lying.

IS LYING WRONG?

When is it *wrong* to lie?

- You might think about lying to show off; to get pals and be popular, to get away with something you've done; to persuade someone to let you do something you're not supposed to; to get someone else into trouble.

When is it *not wrong* to lie?

- You might think about lying to help someone else or protect them; to save someone's feelings.

Is it worse to lie to some people than others?

- Who? What makes it worse?

Think to yourself but don't tell anyone:

- What's the worst lie you've ever told?
- Why did you need to tell it?

Imagine someone you trusted had lied to you.

- Can you forgive them?
- Can you trust them again?
- What does that depend on?



LYING IN ACTION

In groups of 4 make up a scene showing a situation when it is okay to lie.

- **Was there any way that the liar could have avoided lying?**
- **What would have happened then?**

Here is a Traveller girl describing a situation which ended up with her lying. Can you understand how she felt and why it happened?

"I see now that a lot of it wasn't really bullying (at school) but just childish curiosity and ignorance. Anyhow one time it got so bad, having all the other children circling around me, asking these questions, one asked if my family put curses on people - I said yes they did and I could as well if they didn't leave me alone. Of course I couldn't, but they didn't seem to know that and they left me alone for the rest of the day.

However the next day after they'd gone home to their parents, and no doubt found out that I'd been lying, things got a lot worse."

From BBC Devon Community Life - On the road as a Romany Gypsy

- **What do you imagine happened to the girl at school the next day?**
- **If you were her friend, what advice would you give her for the future, about dealing with other children if they ask awkward questions and pressurise her?**
- **Create a short scene showing the girl in a new school facing a group of children who question and make fun of her because she is from a Travelling family. What happens when she puts into action the advice you just gave?**
- **You can of course play being a boy from a Travelling family instead of a girl.**
- **Watch some of the scenes – what solutions worked best?**

WHAT'S THE TRUTH?

Jim steals Nicky's jacket and hides in the toilet. Nicky is huge and furious - he's a notorious bully. He goes in the toilets to find Jim. He says to Scott *'Is Jim in here? I'm looking for him'* Scott says *'Not seen him'*.

Later, Jim, Nicky and Scott are all in front of a teacher and have been asked to explain what happened. Scott says, *'Jim was hiding in the toilets and I protected him from getting a doing.'* Nicky says. *'Scott lied to me and stopped me from getting my jacket back.'*

- **Who is telling the truth?**

Each version is true for the person speaking. The facts are what actually physically happened but people all interpret that differently.



NOTE TO THE TEACHER:

- Return to some of the scenes pupils made earlier, showing when it is 'okay to lie'.
- Are there two versions of the truth in some of these scenes? Try to tease out the points of view of different characters, for example, '*I spared your feelings*' / '*You let me go out looking like the back of a bus*'.

LIAR

Liar by Davey Anderson, premiered at the Citizens' Theatre on 27 May 2008, played for two weeks at the theatre before touring schools and venues across Scotland.

TAG

TAG is a professional Scottish theatre company producing work for children and young people, enjoyed by all ages. TAG is part of the Citizens' Theatre, Glasgow and regularly tours high quality theatre productions to venues and schools, along with a diverse range of creative learning projects. Our work is designed to fire imaginations and ignite learning. TAG works in the UK and abroad.

LINKS

For more information on Liar or TAG's extensive range of projects and productions visit:
www.tag-theatre.co.uk

For information about the Citizens' Theatre visit:
www.citz.co.uk

For behind the scenes information, news, pictures, videos and gossip read our blogs:
www.tagtheatre.blogspot.com
www.citizenstheatre.blogspot.com

TAG supports Young Audiences Scotland.

www.youngaudiencesscotland.com - the megaphone for the vibrancy and variety of theatre for children, young people and families in Scotland.