



UPPER KS2 - ENGLISH, SPOKEN LANGUAGE

National Curriculum Learning Objective:

- articulate and justify answers, arguments and opinions
- maintain attention and participate actively in collaborative conversations, staying on topic and initiating and responding to comments
- participate in discussions, presentations, performances, role play, improvisations and debates
- consider and evaluate different viewpoints, attending to and building on the contributions of others

L.O: to identify, challenge and discuss gender stereotypes

Lesson Warm Up:

Hand out some strips of paper to each child in the class. Ask them to write a range of adjectives that they would use to describe themselves, encourage them to consider their personality and the way they behave, not only their appearance.

Divide the children into groups of 4 – 6. In their groups, ask the children to sort the words under the headings 'Boy', 'Girl', 'Both'. Do they find this difficult? Do the words they have chosen represent a specific gender? What do they think has influenced the way in which they have sorted them? Use the word '**brave**' (**Resource 1**) as an example – under which heading do they feel this word would go? Why? Hopefully the class will decide that most of the words written are non-gender specific. Now consider how this has changed over time.

Enid Blyton

At the Heart of Every Childhood

THE
**FAMOUS
FIVE**

MAIN ACTIVITY:

In pairs ask the children to read a selection of extracts from 'Five On a Treasure Island' by Enid Blyton that contain reference to gender (**Resource 2**). Ask them to underline / highlight in one colour the language used to describe girls and in another colour the language used to describe boys.

On whiteboards, ask the children to make notes about what they notice about the different ways they boys and girls are spoken about. Encourage them to discuss the language that they find in the extracts and express how they feel about what they've read.

PLENARY:

As a class, discuss how Enid Blyton's portrayal of gender differs from modern day. What does everyone think about the way that George talks about boys and girls in the book? Would we think and say this today? Is there anything that you feel, as a boy / girl, that you shouldn't enjoy or show an interest in – how do you think that this could be changed?

RESOURCE 1

Brave

RESOURCE 2

extracts from 'Five On a Treasure Island' by Enid Blyton

EXTRACT 1

"I'm George," said the girl. "I shall only answer if you call me George. I hate being a girl. I won't be. I don't like doing the things that girls do. I like doing the things that boys do. I can climb better than any boy, and swim faster too. I can sail a boat as well as any fisher-boy on this coast. You're to call me George. Then I'll speak to you. But I shan't if you don't."

"Oh!" said Anne, thinking that her new cousin was most extraordinary. "All right! I don't care what I call you. George is a nice name, I think. I don't much like Georgina. Anyway, you look like a boy."

"Do I really?" said George, the frown leaving her face for a moment. "Mother was awfully cross with me when I cut my hair short. I had hair all round my neck; it was awful." The two girls stared at one another for a moment. "Don't you simply hate being a girl?" asked George.

"No, of course not," said Anne. "You see- I do like pretty frocks- and I love my dolls- and you can't do that if you're a boy."

"Pooh! Fancy bothering about pretty frocks," said George, in a scornful voice. "And dolls! Well, you are a baby, that's all I can say."

Anne felt offended. "You're not very polite," she said. "You won't find that my brothers take much notice of you if you act as if you knew everything. They're real boys, not pretend boys, like you."

"Well, if they're going to be nasty to me I shan't take any notice of them," said George, jumping out of bed. "I didn't want any of you to come, anyway. Interfering with my life here! I'm quite happy on my own. Now I've got to put up with a silly girl who likes frocks and dolls, and two stupid boy- cousins!"

Anne felt that they had made a very bad beginning. She said no more, but got dressed herself too. She put on her grey jeans and a red jersey. George put on jeans too, and a boy's jersey. Just as they were ready the boys hammered on their door.

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EXTRACT 2

George looked out over the bay. Her face had gone sulky again. "Well, it doesn't matter what punishment I got," she said, "but the worst part of all was when Father said I couldn't keep Timothy any more, and Mother backed Father up and said Tim must go. I cried for days- and I never do cry, you know, because boys don't and I like to be like a boy."

"Boys do cry sometimes," began Anne, looking at Dick, who had been a bit of a cry-baby three or four years back. Dick gave her a sharp nudge, and she said no more. George looked at Anne.

"Boys don't cry," she said, obstinately. "Anyway, I've never seen one, and I always try not to cry myself. It's so babyish. But I just couldn't help it when Timothy had to go. He cried too."

The children looked with great respect at Timothy. They had not known that a dog could cry before.

EXTRACT 3

Anne's heart sank. This was what she had feared. "Well," she said, "you needn't take me, of course. But you might take the boys, George. After all, they didn't do anything silly. And anyway, you gave me an awful kick. Look at the bruise."

George looked at it. Then she looked at Anne. "But wouldn't you be miserable if I took Julian and Dick without you?" she asked.

"Of course," said Anne. "But I don't want to make them miss a treat, even if I have to."

Then George did a surprising thing for her. She gave Anne a hug! Then she immediately looked most ashamed of herself, for she felt sure that no boy would have done that! And she always tried to act like a boy.

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EXTRACT 4

Anne took George's hands. "I'm awfully sorry about your island, George," she said.

"So am I," said Dick. "Bad luck, old girl-I mean, old boy!"

George managed to smile. "I've been behaving like a girl," she said, half-ashamed. "But I did get an awful shock."

Julian told the others what they had planned. "We'll go tomorrow morning," he said.

"We'll make out a list of all the things we shall need. Let's begin now."

EXTRACT 5

"That's enough, Georgina," said her father, angrily. "Your mother is guided by me. You're only a child. Your mother didn't really mean what she said- it was only to please you. But you know well enough you will share in the money we get and have anything you want."

"I won't touch a penny!" said George, in a low, choking voice. "You'll be sorry you sold it."

EXTRACT 6

"Anyway, I couldn't come," went on Aunt Fanny. "I've some gardening to do. You'll be quite safe with George. She can handle a boat like a man." The three children looked eagerly at the weather the next day when they got up. The sun was shining, and everything seemed splendid.