

Readers' theatre and storytelling

Activity sheet

1. Read *Face the Facts – Questions and Answers about Migrants and Multiculturalism* to gather facts about migration and multiculturalism. Answer the following questions:

a. What are immigrants? Who migrates to Australia?

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b. Define the term 'immigrant'. Explore the *Face the Facts Glossary* to gather the facts.

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c. Where do migrants come from? Identify two main countries of origin during 2007/08. Explore *Face the Facts – Questions and Answers about Migrants and Multiculturalism* to gather some statistics to back up your answer.

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2. Your teacher will provide you with a *Readers' Theatre* script focussing on Herman van Haren's story of migration from the Netherlands to Australia in 1953.

a. Working in groups of seven – according to the number of characters in the story, read the script through together to gain an overall understanding of the storyline, with each member of your group taking on a character role. Discuss the script and clarify any areas of contention/confusion.

b. Read the script together a second time. Focus on your specific reading sections and note any elements of characterisation – think about how you will present your character when your group performs.

c. Rehearse your group performance. Decide on a minimum of props and costumes to support your performance. There is a limit of one item for each character. Remember to focus on what is important to convey meaning in the script and your character, rather than what colour you will wear! How you use your voice will be most important.

d. Perform the script aloud in front of your classmates. Try to maintain eye contact with the audience and use your voice/ body to convey meaning.

