

## Danny, the Champion of the World Danny's dad and Captain Lancaster

Lesson  
plan

### Overview

#### Learning objective

- To explore and develop strategies to write a script.

#### Learning outcome

- A script between Danny's dad and Captain Lancaster.

#### Book reference

- Chapter 12: Thursday and School.

#### Cross-curricular link

- Literacy, Drama, Personal, Social, Citizenship and Health Education.

#### Resources

- Packet of raisins for role play.



### Starter

- Ask two strong actors to come up to the front of the class. Read the following extract. The children read dialogue for Danny and Danny's dad. The child playing Danny can use a packet of raisins as a prop.

“ He was watching me now as I opened the first packet of raisins. ‘Hey!’ he cried, grabbing my left wrist. ‘What’s happened to your hand?’ ‘It’s nothing,’ I said, clenching the fist. He made me open it up. The long scarlet mark lay across my palm like a burn. ‘Who did it?’ he shouted. ‘Was it Captain Lancaster?’ ‘Yes, Dad, but it’s nothing.’

“

‘What happened?’ He was gripping my wrist so hard it almost hurt. ‘Tell me exactly what happened!’

I told him everything. He stood there holding my wrist, his face going whiter and whiter, and I could see the fury beginning to boil up dangerously inside him.

‘I’ll kill him!’ he softly whispered when I had finished. ‘I swear I’ll kill him!’ His eyes were blazing, and all the colour had gone from his face. I had never seen him look like that before.

‘Forget it, Dad.’

‘I will not forget it!’ he said. ‘You did nothing wrong and he had absolutely no right to do this to you. So he called you a cheat, did he?’ I nodded.

He had taken his jacket from a peg on the wall and was putting it on.

‘Where are you going?’ I asked.

‘I am going straight to Captain Lancaster’s house and I’m going to beat the living daylights out of him.’

‘No!’ I cried, catching hold of his arm. ‘Don’t do it, Dad, please! It won’t do any good! Please don’t do it!’

‘I’ve got to,’ he said.

‘No!’ I cried, tugging at his arm. ‘It’ll ruin everything! It’ll only make it worse! Please forget it!’



### Main teaching activity

- Mindmap the emotions of the characters in this scene (anger, rage, fear, desperation, love).
- Annotate or highlight extracts from the text that show these emotions.
- Discuss how and why this is an effective piece of drama (conflict; two characters with different opinions etc).
- In pairs, the children imagine that Danny's dad did actually go to see Captain Lancaster about Danny's wrist. They discuss the possible things that could happen during the scene.
- Feedback ideas to the rest of the class.

### Group or independent activity

- Pairs write a script showing a scene between Danny's dad and Captain Lancaster.

### Plenary

- Pairs read their scripts back to the rest of the class.

### Other activities

- Act out the scripts, exploring action and facial expressions.
- Turn scripts into a piece of creative writing showing the scene. Explore use of adjectives and similes ("The long scarlet mark lay across my palm like a bur"), verbs (clenching, grabbing, tugging), metaphorical language ("the fury beginning to boil up dangerously inside him"), use of italics ("I'll kill him!"). Use these techniques in the piece of creative writing.

