Children's Services

Secondary Drama Conference

20th October 2026

Steering Group Practice Sharing – Session 4

Approaching the 8 mark question

Hampshire County Council

Hellen Smith, Thornden School

Approaching the 8 mark question

AQA GCSE Drama

(Blood Brothers)

Practical activity

1. Read the extract from Blood Brothers. Consider context – what is happening?
2. Make a group of 3 (or 2)
3. Create a tableau to demonstrate the blocking for Linda's line:

"Yeh, we try an' shoot his little thingy off, don't we Mickey?"
They all laugh.

4. Discuss: what is Linda's intention as she delivers the line?

5. Discuss: does Linda's intention change as she delivers the words **"Come on, gang, let's go"** ?

Writing activity

1. On a mini white board write down your intention as you deliver this line. Example:

My intention would be to demonstrate…

Practical activity

1. Use movement and the dialogue from the extract to act out the moment below.

Mickey Come on, Eddie. You can have a shot at our target in the park.

Linda Peter Pan.

Mickey We always shoot at that, don't we, Linda?

Linda Yeh, we try an' shoot his little thingy off, don't we, Mickey?

They all laugh.

Come on, gang, let's go.

Edward (*standing firm*) But Mickey... I mean... suppose we get... caught... by a policeman.

Mickey Aah... take no notice. We've been caught loads of times by a policeman... haven't we, Linda?

Pay close attention to the movement & dialogue for this line

Note writing activity

1. On the back of your mini whiteboard write down **how** the actor playing Linda performed the focus line. Make notes on the following use of skills:

Vocal skills (pace/pitch/pause/tone/volume)
Facial expressions
Body language
Gestures
Movement
Interactions



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Extended writing activity – start to answer the question

1. On the other side of your mini white board: turn your notes into full sentences to answer the first part of the question. **Describe how you would use your vocal and physical skills to perform the line below.**

"Yeh, we try an' shoot his little thingy off, don't we Mickey?" *They all laugh*. **"Come on, gang, let's go"**

At the start of the line my intention would be to demonstrate that Linda is showing off; she tries to make the boys laugh. As I say the words "Yeh, we try an' shoot..." I would be stood CS between M & E, my focus on Eddie with a big grin on my face, my eyes wide and my head eagerly nodding. I would say the word "Yeh" in a fast pace with loud volume and excitable tone. My hands would be on my hips, but as I say the words "don't we" I would nudge Mickey's left arm with my right elbow....

Extended writing activity – finish answering the question

The examiner also wants you to **explain the effects you want to create.**

1. Discuss: why does Linda say this line? What do we know about Linda as a character?
2. Discuss: how might the audience react?

Note down your answers to these questions on the back of your mini white board.

Extended writing activity – finish answering the question

Describe how you would use your vocal and physical skills to perform the line below and explain the effects you want to create.

1. Write up your notes in full sentences, adding them to your answer. Explain **why** you would use the skills you have chosen – prove knowledge & understanding about the character. Describe the **effect** your performance would have on the audience.

...My hands would be on my hips, but as I say the words "don't we" I would nudge Mickey's left arm with my right elbow.... I would hope to show that Linda is an energetic child, happy to play with the boys and show off to Mickey and Eddie, also keen to go and play with the air gun. My performance would make the audience laugh...

8 marker paragraph structure & mnemonic:

- Intention
- What
- How
- Why
- Effect

Vocal skills (pace/pitch/pause/tone/volume)
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