



just like us

EMPOWERING LGBT+ YOUNG PEOPLE

Being Yourself - Anne Lister

Session summary		Pupil context
<p>Pupils learn about Anne Lister, a lesbian woman living in the 19th century. Anne created her own code so she could write honestly about who she was. Pupils get the opportunity to break Anne's code, and create their own code. The lesson contains a discussion as to why Anne Lister felt like she had to do this, how things have changed today.</p>		<p>Suitable for KS2 pupils.</p>
Session aims	Resources needed	Link to English curriculum
<ul style="list-style-type: none">▸ Understand who Anne Lister was and why she was unusual in Victorian Britain▸ Understand why she had to write in code▸ Understand how views towards lesbians have changed	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▸ Presentation▸ Code Wheel worksheet	<p>Statutory guidance for the new PSHE curriculum includes the statement that primary school pupils should understand “the importance of respecting others, even when they are very different from them (for example, physically, in character, personality or backgrounds), or make different choices or have different preferences or beliefs”</p>
Link to Welsh curriculum	Link to Scottish curriculum	Link to NI curriculum
<p>“Learners should be given opportunities to empathise with others’ experiences and feelings and develop strategies to resolve conflict and deal with bullying”</p>	<p>“I recognise that each individual has a unique blend of abilities and needs. I contribute to making my school community one which values individuals equally and is a welcoming place for all”</p>	<p>“Investigate factors that influence individual and group identity, as well as the ways in which individuals and groups express their identity”</p>
Preparation ahead of the session		
<ul style="list-style-type: none">▸ You may need to let pupils know about School Diversity Week: you can find explainer slides in our resource library.▸ Our intro slides contain information explaining the acronym LGBT+		

Timing	Activity	Suggestions for differentiation
0-5	Women in the 19th century <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▸ Share lesson aims with the class. ▸ Show some pictures of stereotypical Victorian women and ask pupils to write down as many words to describe them as possible. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Extension question: in what ways are modern and Victorian and modern women different? 	Offer pupils a selection of words which they can choose from.
5-15	Anne Lister <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▸ Present biographical information about Anne Lister, including the video. Ask them to compare to the words and phrases that they wrote down as part of the starter activity. ▸ Ask pupils to use their summarising skills to decide on the key information. They could even put together a mini-quiz for the person next to them. 	Create a short comprehension quiz for pupils, including questions such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● What is the name of the person being described? ● When was she born? ● Did she love men or women? ● Did she write a lot?
15-25	Code breaking <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▸ Introduce pupils to the code. ▸ Ask pupils to decipher the code presented on screen. ▸ Answer to the code puzzle: <p><i>Anne was a lesbian.</i></p> <p><i>She was teased by people in the local town and they called her 'Gentleman Jack'.</i></p> 	Fill in some of the commonly used letters for pupils, such as vowels.
25-35	Why have the code? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▸ Lead group discussions and take whole-class feedback: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Why do you think Anne Lister felt she needed to write in a code? ● How do you think hiding her identity and her relationships made Anne feel? ● If Anne Lister were alive in Britain today, would she still need to write her private diaries in code? 	Use prompt questions, such as 'are people always nice to those who are different to them?' and 'how would you feel if you couldn't tell anyone something really important about yourself?'
35-60	Code making - and a message to Anne Lister <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▸ Ask pupils to create their own code and break it using the Make Your Own Code Wheel worksheet. ▸ Finally, ask pupils to finish the lesson by writing down (in their code and in English) what they would say to Anne 	Allow pupils to use the code from earlier in the lesson to write their message.

	Lister, if they could send her a message.	
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