

Acknowledgements

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Introduction

Welcome to EMC's *Iridescent Adolescent* accompanying downloadable resources. Informed by the experiences of a working group of teachers, who trialled the stories with their students and developed their own materials, these free PowerPoint lesson sequences place the stories themselves at the heart of learning.

Using the resources

The resources have been written using the usual EMC style – so they are addressed directly to students, with the teacher's role implicit in the wording. While they are ready for immediate classroom use, we recommend that you go through them carefully before teaching, adapting and adding to them as necessary. While you are free to use the PowerPoints in any way you wish, the creative commons licence does not permit you to share any modified work beyond your institution.

A big picture approach

The resources encourage students to think about what is important about the stories they read. The starting point for lessons, then, often directs students to comment on their first impressions and ideas and to share these with their classmates. Once they've established the 'big picture' they engage in a range of activities, some of them close focus, some maintaining a broad picture of the story – though in all cases focusing on the story itself. We would recommend that you enter into these activities alongside your students, so that they gain from your expert knowledge, as well as generating ideas of their own.

Stories in conversation

Most of the resources clusters stories into 'conversations'. In thinking about stories in relation to each other – in letting them 'talk' to each other – new ideas emerge and students develop their thinking about both newly introduced stories and ones that they met before. This might involve identifying contextual links, but it could also be about finding connections between how stories are written.

Creating your own conversations

We have clustered stories into different conversations. There are many other combinations of stories which would also be illuminating. You could use some of the approaches suggested in the resource 'Ranging Across Iridescent Adolescent' to structure these new conversations.

Diversity in doing

The anthology features a diverse collection of stories by writers from a wide range of backgrounds, ethnicities and interests. We think it's important that this diverse content is matched by the opportunities students have for 'doing' English in many different ways when using the anthology. In part, we've tried to achieve this by offering a range of different approaches to the stories. In part, we've also tried to build into the resources a recognition that students are entitled to work on the stories in multiple ways, shaped at times by their own perspectives. Consequently, lots of the activities require students to apply their own thinking to the stories, and to share this with others. There are also plenty of opportunities for students to exercise choice – in the stories they choose to read, the ways that they choose to read them, and the activities they can apply to them.

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