

# Reflections

## Some starting points for teachers & students

### Generating Ideas

The word 'reflections' has several different meanings and variations which could provide you with interesting starting points, visual prompts or ideas for your video. Where might the word itself actually take you?

Read through the different definitions of 'reflections' in the box below, and add any others you can think of. In your group, mind map or brainstorm as many blue-skies ideas as you can for each definition.

#### Reflections:

##### According to AI:

Simply put, a reflection is either an image seen in a mirror, light bouncing off a smooth surface, or deep thought and consideration.

A 'reflection of someone' means that a person or action embodies, mirrors, or reveals the character, traits, or reputation of another person.

##### Literal synonyms:

Images; echoes; mirror images; images seen in shiny surfaces; echoes;

##### For example:

*The artist was famous for her paintings of reflections of sunlight on water*

*He looked gloomily at his reflection in the mirror.*

##### Real life examples of literal reflections which might inspire your thinking:

##### For example:

Looking in a puddle; car headlights on rainy roads; shiny surfaces; sunglasses with reflective coating; rear-view mirrors in cars; cats' eyes in the dark;

##### Deep thoughts: the process of thinking carefully about a particular subject.

Contemplations; ideas; meditations; considerations; thinking; opinions; views

##### For example:

*As she played, the little girl was absorbed in her reflections*

*The writer published a series of reflections on the work of Shakespeare*



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NOW!

## Some possible starting points:

If you're stuck for ideas, we've come up with a few suggestions – use or ignore them as you wish. And if you're already working on a production, consider whether there might be an opportunity to enhance it with visual imagery and ideas about reflection

- A personal or autobiographical monologue, reflecting your point of view, thoughts or opinions around a particular debate
- A music video to a specific song of your choice which reflects and explores a relationship, decision or problem
- An 'arthouse', surreal or experimental interpretation of the word 'Reflections' using a range of media forms and images
- The opening of a romcom/crime narrative/sitcom/soap episode which reflects a problem and/or the search for a resolution
- A short self-contained narrative in a format or genre of your choice – a sketch, an animation, a TikTok, or another social media form based on the theme of reflections
- A documentary or news item which focuses on the reflection or representation of a particular real-world event, conflict or issue
- A video poem or montage of sound and moving images which reflects your interpretation of a poem, short story or text of your choice
- A pastiche, parody or alternative reflection on one of your set texts in Film, Media Studies or English
- A TV ad for a (fictional) product or service of your choice entitled 'Reflections'.

## Some useful tips

You don't have to start from scratch with our theme. If you have already produced a video on another topic you'd like to enter, send it anyway – but ensure you've fully completed the entry form so we know what you've made and the circumstances under which you made it. But whatever you produce, the following tips, learned from the last 13 years of our competition, could be helpful:

- Keep it short and simple – often the best videos are those which are concise, tightly edited and not too ambitious. We want really short – nothing over 5 minutes, and preferably less.
- It doesn't have to be a heavy psycho-drama or a 'serious' exploration – what about a Comic Relief item, a new sitcom or gameshow trailer, or a well-shot stand-up routine? Our judges love humour and are always good for a laugh.
- Make it a music video if you can! Year-on-year, many of our winning entries are music videos. So much fun to create, and so useful to develop and demonstrate your visual and editing skills, and our theme should give you lots to play with.
- If you've decided to produce a video in a particular genre, remember that you can echo, subvert or challenge the conventions of that genre.
- Don't forget your soundtrack – a fully-planned soundscape can create coherence and meaning for your images
- Make it your own – while you will of course draw on your expertise and references as film and media students, we do love to see your own original, personal or experimental interpretations of the theme.

We can't wait to see what you come up with this year. Good luck to all our entrants.