



SAFESTAY HOSTEL

-Student Pages-

Dear Students,

Welcome to the preparation material for the show “Safestay Hostel”. This prepare you for your visit to our show and help you understand the themes and language better.

What do you think the show is about? What are your expectations?

We will see you soon!

Platypus Theater

1. Story line – important themes

“Safestay Hostel” is a play set in London in the year 2026. The action of the play takes place in a hostel and is about the lives of the people staying there and the hostel owner. Their lives are being severely affected by what is going on politically under the new autocratic government (a government with total power over the country).

Here are the main themes that are woven into the plot of the play. Before starting the exercises look up the definitions of the different themes and write them down in your own words (giving some examples can help):

Racism: _____

Nationalism: _____

Privileges: _____

Migration: _____

Democracy: _____

Demonstrations: _____

Populism: _____

Discuss the following questions in groups:

RACISM

- Name calling: When is calling people names an insult?
- When is name calling "just for fun"?
- Should one stop making jokes about other people's nationalities?
- Where does racism begin?
- There is a saying in the English speaking world "Sticks and stones will break my bones but names will never hurt me" Discuss what this saying means. Is there some truth in the saying or is the saying incorrect?

NATIONALISM

- What is nationalism?
- Look at the lyrics of the Finnish national anthem, the Australian national anthem, the Brazilian national anthem, the British national anthem. Compare them to each other. Compare them to the lyrics of the German national anthem.
- Donald Trump once described himself as a nationalist. What is a "nationalist?"

PRIVILEGES

- What privileges do you have?
- What is the difference between a privilege and an advantage or a privilege and a right?
- What advantages do you have over others?
- What privileges do diplomats have?

MIGRATION

- What are positive effects of migration?
- Are you an immigrant yourself? Were your parents immigrants?
- Name some of the disadvantages that immigrants have in Germany.
- How many years does someone have to live in a country before they are no longer considered to be a migrant?

DEMOCRACY

- Are you old enough to vote? If so, do you vote?
- Do you vote for the same party as your parents?
- How do you make a decision about which party you will vote for?
- Imagine that you cannot see the sense in voting and you decide not to vote in an election. Someone comes to you, someone who doesn't have the right to vote, and asks you if you could vote on their behalf. Would you do this? What if they offer you money?

DEMONSTRATIONS

- Discuss the effectiveness of demonstrations.
- Do you go to demonstrations?
- Do you think it's right to go to a demonstration in school time? Which demonstrations have changed the course of history?
- What issue or issues would motivate you to go out on the street and demonstrate?
- Think of some slogans that you would paint on a sign before you went on a demonstration.

POPULISM

- What is populism?
- What is right-wing populism and what is left-wing populism?
- Why is populism so wide spread in the world at present?

2. Vocabulary list

English	Description
a <u>viable</u> economy	an economy which is capable of working successfully
to prosper	to flourish / to grow
a walk in the park	another idiom meaning "it's easy"
a set of linen	2 bed sheets and a pillowslip
to alert someone	to be made aware of
to ruin something	to destroy something
to be sensible	to act in a responsible/careful way
a plumber	a qualified tradesperson who repairs water supply pipes in sanitary areas and in heating systems
a plunger	a tool made with a stick and a rubber cup on the end used for helping unblock drains and toilets
to justify	to prove or to show that something is right
the end justifies the means	the goal justifies the actions taken to achieve the goal
to deprive	to take something away from someone
to despise	to dislike strongly, to hate
to spoil a child	to be too liberal with a child, to fail to set boundaries and restrictions
prosperity	more wealth
big bucks	lots of money, "bucks" is slang for American dollars
a privilege	a special right, advantage or immunity granted or available only to a particular person or group
on the contrary	the opposite is true
tax	the money which companies and citizens pay to the state to cover the cost of public services e.g. health care
a tax avoidance epidemic	a sudden and large increase in people trying to avoid

	paying taxes
to get kicked out	to be sent away or sent out forcefully
an allowance	a certain amount of money given to you by your parents
an arts related course	a university course in the field of humanities e.g. languages, literature, art
to persist	to keep on doing something in a determined way
accumulated	gathered
a kettle	a kitchen utensil used for boiling water
harsh	hard, severe
stubborn	when someone has made up their mind no to do something
homophobic	a dislike of or a prejudice against homosexual people
to raise the university fees	to increase the amount of money one has to pay for going to university
to have permanent residency	to be allowed to stay in a country forever
deportation	the act of being forcefully sent out of a country
to prosecute	charging someone with a crime and putting them on trial
to be indifferent	not to care about something
jail	another word for prison
imminent	very soon
accordingly	in an appropriate way

3. Trash talk: how Twitter is shaping the new politics...

Article: <https://www.theguardian.com/technology/2016/jul/31/trash-talk-how-twitter-is-shaping-the-new-politics>

Task 1) Discuss the use of Twitter/X by politicians.

You may find these questions useful:

- Who reads what politicians write on Twitter/X?
- Why do politicians use Twitter/X to comment on events rather than giving a press conference?
- Can you give some examples of famous tweets by politicians?

Task 2) Write a tweet to a politician, expressing your opinion on a topic you feel strongly about. You are only allowed to use 280 characters in a tweet.

4. Debate

DEBATING: Politicians make important decisions about issues which affect the citizens of their countries. In order to make good decisions politicians should inform themselves and have discussions so they can weigh up the advantages and disadvantages of adopting certain policies.

A good way to discuss issues is to have a debate. This is a formal discussion in which you argue for or against a topic. There are two teams in a debate. You have to argue why your team is right and why the opposition is wrong.

A topic may be something simple such as "Cats are better pets than dogs" or something more political like the following topics, which are also relevant to our play. It can be fun!

Possible topics:

- Voting in elections should be compulsory.
- Should people be able to vote from the age of 16?
- People who are living, working and paying taxes in a country should be allowed to vote in that country even if they are not citizens of that country.
- The deforestation of the Amazon Rainforest in Brazil is a global issue and must be governed over by a global organization and not a national organization.
- Politicians should not be allowed to communicate on twitter.
- The Brexit decision should have been made by the British government not by "the people."

How to conduct a debate:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yi6Im-Sb6Vw>

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GGpBmcOA_w0

Two teams of three people sit at the front of the room usually behind desks so they can take notes. On one side is the "affirmative team." They would argue that cats are better pets than dogs. On the other side is the "negative team." They would argue that cats are

not better pets than dogs.

The first person on the affirmative team speaks first. The first speaker defines key words in the topic, introduces the team's arguments and begins the debate.

There is a timekeeper. The timekeeper starts a stop watch when the speaker begins to speak. Usually each speaker can speak for four minutes and the timekeeper gives a signal after three minutes.

The second person to speak is the first speaker for the negative side. This speaker defines key words, introduces the negative team's arguments and "rebutts" the arguments of the first speaker affirmative. Rebuttal is when you choose a point made by the opposition and explain why they are wrong and prove why you are right. Rebuttals are important but you must never become personal in a rebuttal.

The next person to speak is the second speaker affirmative, followed by the second speaker negative. Both these speakers continue their team's arguments and rebut the opposition.

They are followed by the third speaker affirmative and the third speaker negative. The third speaker of the negative team has the last word, which can be an advantage in debating. At the end of the debate, an adjudicator or a team of adjudicators will decide which teams win. They consider your presentation skills and how convincing your arguments are.

Debating teaches you to look at both sides of the argument. Sometimes you may not agree with the side of the debate you are arguing for and this can be challenging. It can be a good experience to look at a topic from a different point of view. It also teaches you teamwork.

Each member of the team needs to know what their teammates are talking about. Planning and writing the debate are done together.

Debate topic: _____

(If you need some inspiration for a topic you can always read the scene on the next page)

Notes to your groups topic....

5. Scene from the show

4 characters in this scene: Tanja, Dylan, Juliana and Natalie

Tanja is the owner of the hostel. Juliana is a political activist from Brazil, Natalie has come to London to study writing and Dylan is working at the hostel.

Tanja Thank you for coming. I have an announcement to make. I need to raise the prices.
Dylan Why?
Juliana It's because of the new laws.
Dylan What laws?
Juliana Migrant workers have to pay 20 percent more tax...
Dylan 20 percent?
Juliana ...and companies that hire British people are getting discounts.
Natalie But you've been here for so many years.
Tanja Yes but I never got a British passport. I never needed it.
Juliana You have Tony Rice to thank for that.
Natalie How many people will be affected by the new law?
Tanja I have no idea.
Juliana There are over 4 million non-British people in the UK.
Dylan Shit that's a lot.
Natalie Maybe someone's made a mistake. Maybe there are some exceptions to the new law.
Tanja There are exceptions for bigger companies.
Natalie So what's it mean for us? What's the new price?
Tanja From next week on it will be 25 pounds per night.
Natalie From 18 to 25?
Juliana You know that the people who usually stay here won't be able to afford that.
Tanja I hope that's not the case. But it also doesn't serve anybody if I have to close down!
Dylan Ok. Why did we have to bring our passports?
Tanja Yes, because there's also another change. From now on, I also have to collect everyone's passports and transfer the data to the authorities.
Juliana You're kidding....
Tanja So please give me your passports now
Dylan Here! Gives his British passport
Natalie Here! German passport
Juliana Here! World Citizen Passport
Tanja What's this?
Juliana My passport.
Tanja I need your real passport.
Juliana What's a real passport?
Tanja An official document.
Juliana That's an official document. That's my foto, that's my birthplace.
Dylan What is it?
Natalie Let me see. takes it from Tanja World Citizen!
Juliana That's me. I'm a world citizen.
Dylan Where did you get that?
Juliana From the World Service Authority in Washington.

Safestay Hostel

Natalie How much did it cost?
Juliana 150 dollars.
Dylan 150 dollars for a fake passport!
Natalie What do you do with it?
Juliana I show it to the border guards when I'm entering countries.
Natalie Why?
Juliana To make people think. We should be responsible for the whole world not just for our own nations.
Dylan That's pretty radical.
Juliana It's a movement. Over a million people have one of these.
Natalie That's amazing.
Tanja That's enough! I need to see your Brazilian passport now. I can't send in your world citizen passport!
Natalie Why not? It would be fun.
Tanja Fun?
Dylan Yeah, stir things up a bit.
Natalie Why don't you do it?
Tanja Grow up. I don't want any trouble. I don't want to be forced to go back to Finland. My life is here.
Juliana Well the way things are going with Tony Rice, you may get kicked out anyway.
Tanja Give me your Brazilian passport. Now.
Juliana There.
Tanja Your visa is not valid.
Juliana I'm working on it.
Tanja Juliana! I can't have you staying here without a valid visa! You're illegal!
Juliana No I'm not, I just need a few days to sort it out!
Tanja They could close me down if they find out I let you stay here!
Juliana Tanja what are you saying? I have no where to go, are you kicking me out?
Dylan Just let her stay a few more days.
Natalie Yeah, let her stay, no one will know.
Tanja (pause) You can stay until Sunday, and don't tell anyone.

6. Show expectations and reflections

What are your expectations before seeing the show?

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Write a short reflection after watching Safestay Hostel.

- How did you feel after the show finished?
- What did you learn from the show?
- Did the show match your expectations? Why?
- What moment/scene impressed you?

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