

# SAFESTAY HOSTEL

*-Teacher Pages-*

Dear Teachers,

here you will find further information on the preparation material and the student pages for the show “Safestay Hostel”. Most exercises can be done before the show. Feel free to adapt the exercises to your own class group and lesson(s). We welcome any feedback.

Enjoy and see you at the show!

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## Content of the student pages

- 1- Story line – important themes
- 2- Vocabulary list
- 3- Trash Talk – how twitter is shaping the new politics
- 4- Debate
- 5- Scene from the show
- 6- Show expectations and reflections – What do you think?
- 7- Why we created this play

## Explanation of the exercises

### 1) Story line – important themes

Dear teachers,

Soon you will be coming to see our play “Safestay Hostel”. The play is 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 run by the Right Party.

We have made a few suggestions for group work on these topics, but no doubt you will have your own ideas for preparing your students. You don't have to stringently stick to our ideas.

Before splitting up the class into groups give the students some time to research the following main themes that are woven into the plot of the play:

Racism, Nationalism, Privileges, Migration, Democracy, Demonstrations, & Populism.  
They can look them up and write down their definition in their own words.

After that break up the class in groups of 4/5. Each group is assigned one of these topics and discuss these topics for 10 minutes. A spokesperson for the group reports to the whole class on what their group had to say on their topic.

Take enough time to go through all the topics and possibly let the students share some personal examples.

## 2) Vocabulary list

We have put together a list of helpful vocabulary to understand the play better.

## 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) Divide the class into groups of four. They need to discuss the use of Twitter/X by politicians. Here are some questions to help them on the way: 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) Each student needs to write a tweet to a politician, expressing their opinion on a topic they feel strongly about. Its only allowed to use 280 characters in a tweet.

## 4) Debate

Here the main definitions and explanations are provided for the students on how to conduct a debate.

Here some useful videos:

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

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GGpBmcOA\\_w0](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GGpBmcOA_w0)

## 5) Scene from the show

We provided a page from the script so the students can try to play out a part of the play themselves.

## 6) Show expectations and reflections

Here we provided some space to let the students write down their expectations and reflections on the show. Give the students some time to write on their own.

There is an option to open a class discussion to give the students the chance to share their expectations and reflections. If they don't seem eager to talk in group, you can always let the students write down their impressions/short thoughts on the whiteboard or on slips of paper that they swap around a read out for the class to hear.

### 7) Why we made this play

We developed the play together as a team, the five actors, the director and the dramaturg. The actors and creators of the production have their roots in many countries Australia, Great Britain, Pakistan, Germany, Finland, Israel and Brazil. The starting point for the play was the serious conflicts within our own families about politics. We examined our own political opinions and attitudes and conducted research on topics such as how do we form our opinions, what influences our political beliefs or positions, how important is voting and how important is it to be politically involved in our society. Our research also took us into schools where we had lively discussions with students about their political opinions. This direct contact with senior students was very stimulating and very important for the development of the play.

We hope you enjoy your visit to our play and that you will come up to the actors after the play and say hello. You can also send us an email: [mail@platypus-theater.de](mailto:mail@platypus-theater.de) ,

Yours democratically,  
Rachel Pattison and Team