



Classroom activities

Object Dialogue

Activity summary:

Perform a monologue or dialogue from the point of view of objects in the exhibition.

What has the mirror in Mary Shelley's travelling case seen of love and life? Who has worn the hair necklace? Can the necklace speak with Mary Shelley's voice? Did the rattle know that its owner would be famous? Has it stayed with Percy throughout his life, a childhood comforter watching his progress? Can we imagine the voice of Sophocles or his characters speaking to Percy and inspiring him as he carried the book in his pocket, with lines of verse declaiming his death as he drowned?

Suggested groups: Y10.

Resources:

Pictures / sight of the objects in the exhibition.

Writing materials for notes or speech transcription.

Learning Objectives:

*Understand the place of objects in personal life.

*Imaginative response to a physical stimulus.

*Enhance debating and public speaking skills.

*Mix group and independent work.

*Explore differences between spoken and written language.

AO and Syllabus links:

Speaking and Listening focus. Relevant for: listening, understanding and responding appropriately to others; adapting speech to a widening range of circumstances and demands; formulating, clarifying and expressing ideas.

Further information:

This could be run in the form of a balloon debate, with students arguing either for the importance of their object to this exhibition, or as the object on their influence over the owner.

It could lead to students bringing in or reflecting on objects in their own lives, and the changing role of possessions in our respective cultures.

It would work as a class exercise with some homework time for preparation.