



# BIG DRAMAS second edition

## Home Sweet Home

### DRAMA TEACHER NOTES

#### Group discussion

- Choose two of the characters from *Home Sweet Home* and describe them as fully as possible. What do they wear? How do they walk and talk? What motivates them to act the way they do? How do they relate to the other characters in the play?
- Select a TV sitcom known to the group and define the basic situation underlying the series. Choose two of the central characters and try to define their main characteristics in one sentence each.
- Examine *Home Sweet Home* carefully and, as a group, discuss one moment which you think would cause the audience to laugh, explaining the source of the humour of that moment. Discuss how the actors would have to deliver the lines leading up to the moment to maximise the humour.

#### Improvisation

- In groups of three, choose three different animals. Imagine each animal has been turned into a human and improvise a scene where they interact. For example, choose a lion, a parrot and a snake. The lion is arrogant, the parrot is mindlessly talkative and the snake is sly and untrustworthy. Now imagine they work in an office together. Or choose a koala, a kangaroo and a kookaburra. The koala is lazy, the kangaroo is boundlessly enthusiastic and the kookaburra is a real joker. They are trying to build a wall together. Present your short improvisations to the class and see if they can name the original animals.
- In small groups, improvise a scene that has all or some of the *Home Sweet Home* characters facing a different dilemma. Imagine, for example, that Gina has led a potential client to believe she has no children and Ella bumps into her. Or Tom tries to stop his parents coming to the school's open day.

#### Scripting

Write a short scene where one character is trying to hide some fact or object from at least one other character and it seems that the secret may be revealed. For this scene, work on making it fast paced and full of action rather than a character study. You may find the work on animal improvisations above a useful starting point.

#### Taking it further

- The action in *Home Sweet Home* all takes place in one room. Find out all the information you can about this setting and draw a floor plan for a set for a production on a proscenium arch stage. How many doors will your set need? Where will you place the furniture?
- Watch an episode of a sitcom you enjoy and write a report on the ways in which the humour arises in the episode. Is it from the way the characters behave? Is it from their actions? Are there gags? As you watch the episode, note if it has a laugh track and how that influences you as a viewer.
- 'Comedy is tragedy with a twist.' Write a short speech supporting this statement.

Photo credit: Shutterstock.com/Africa Studio

