**CHARACTER ACTIVITY SHEET 3**

**CHARACTER AND REPRESENTATION: *WHALE RIDER***

The sequences you are going to view in this section are taken from the 2002 film *Whale Rider*. The film, based on a book, was shot in New Zealand.

***WHALE RIDER*: PAIKEA AND KORO**

This clip is taken from early on in the film. The first shot shows us Paikea, a young girl, and her grandfather Koro at the end of the school day. Koro picks Paikea up from school on his bike every day. In this sequence, we see them talking together after school is over.

**VIEWING ACTIVITIES**

Watch the sequence closely once then work through the following discussion points:

1. What ideas does this sequence give you about each of these two characters?
2. Do your ideas about them change at all as the sequence goes on? If so, how do they change and why?
3. What understanding do you have of the relationship between grandfather and granddaughter? In what ways are family ties, and tensions, shown here?

Now you are going to work in small groups to look more closely at these two characters.

1. Watch the clip closely a second time again and consider how Paikea, is represented in this sequence. Working in small groups, take notes on:

* costume choices
* acting and expression
* dialogue
* music and sounds effects
* interaction with the other character
* camerawork (how does the camera move? What angles are used when the camera shows us Paikea? Does the way it moves change in the sequence?)

1. Now, watch the clip a third time but this time, change your focus and consider how Koro is represented. Again, work in small groups to take notes on the following:

* costume choices
* acting and expression
* dialogue
* music and sounds effects
* interaction with the other character
* camerawork (how does the camera move at the start of the sequence? What angles are used when the camera shows us Koro? Does the way it moves change in the sequence?)

**SUMMARY ACTIVITY**

*Which of these two characters do you have more sympathy with as you watch?*

Use your notes from this section to help you create a structured piece of writing in response to this question. You should **explain** *how* the filmmakers have presented the two characters in this sequence, and *why* you respond to it in the way you do. Remember to keep your language clear and focused, using examples to support each point and connectives to structure your writing.