**CHARACTER ACTIVITY SHEET 4**

***WHALE RIDER*: PAIKEA JUMPS IN**

Read the following synopsis for the film *Whale Rider*:

*In a small New Zealand coastal village, Maori claim descent from Paikea, the Whale Rider. In every generation, a male heir has succeeded to the chiefly title. The time is now. When twins are born, and the boy twin dies, Koro, the chief, is unable to accept his grand-daughter, Pai, as a future leader.*

*A few years later, Koro is convinced that the tribe's misfortunes began at Pai's birth and calls for his people to bring their sons to him, in the hope that the new leader is among them. Pai loves Koro more than anyone in the world, but she must stand up to him and a thousand years of tradition to reveal the true way forward.*

In the second clip from this film, Paikea and her family are out in their boat. Earlier on in the film, Paikea’s grandfather Koro had dropped a special carved necklace into the sea as a challenge to the boys he was teaching: unfortunately, none of the boys was able to retrieve it. When Paikea finds herself in the very same spot, she decides to dive for the necklace herself.

**VIEWING ACTIVITY**

Carefully watch the clip **Paikea jumps in**, taking detailed notes on what you see and hear. Look closely at how characters act and react, the way that emotions are conveyed through action, expression and words. Use the table on the following page to record your responses.

Ctd…

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Shot Number** | **Action (including actor’s expressions)** | **Sound/dialogue** |
|  |  |  |

1. Share your findings as a class to check you have noted all the details in the sequence.
2. Look back over your notes. Does the atmosphere of the sequence change at different points? Could you describe when and how this happens?

**CREATIVE WRITING**

1. Produce a short piece of creative writing, based on the shot where Paikea is under the water. Try to recreate the sounds in this sequence, the atmosphere and the visuals of this shot using descriptive writing. You can present your ideas as prose or poetry.
2. The different characters in the boat are all related to Paikea in some way – they are part of her family and her local community. We see each of their reactions when she is gone underwater for a long time. Using your memories of the sequence, write a short paragraph in the ‘voice’ of each of these characters, recreating their interior thoughts and feelings in words.