**VIEWPOINT ACTIVITY SHEET 3**

***JANE EYRE***

The sequence you will be looking at is taken from the 2011 film version of *Jane Eyre*, which is based on the novel of the same name. The original novel by Charlotte Bronte was first published in 1847 and the story has been adapted for film and television many, many times.

This sequence shows a time in the heroine Jane’s childhood when she was sent away to school. The school is extremely strict and any distraction from lessons is punished severely. Modern audiences watching this clip may be shocked to see a child being physically punished by a teacher. Physical punishment, such as this, was banned in UK state schools in 1986 and in all schools in 1998.

**VIEWING ACTIVITY**

You are now going to watch the sequence from *Jane Eyre*.

* Watch the clip once and make sure you understand what is happening in the sequence.
* Then, watch again looking closely at how the filmmakers have presented the scene, thinking particularly about the viewpoint of the two girls, Jane and Helen. How is the audience encouraged to share the girls’ view on the action through the camerawork, sound and performance here?

Neither Jane nor Helen has any dialogue in this sequence: the characters do not have a say in what happens to them. Both the actors who play the two girls are young also: the director will have worked with them on this scene, and helped them to understand the roles they were playing so that their acting could tell the story, where their words could not.

**CREATIVE RESPONSE**

Imagine you are the director. Work in pairs to annotate this transcript of part of the scene to show the actors playing Jane and Helen how they should act at each moment. Remember, they don’t have any words to say so their gestures, body language and facial expressions will need to show their responses. You should also make notes on where the camera will need to be (close up or mid shot; static or moving and so on) to best capture the girls’ feelings and viewpoint in this scene.

You can base your ideas on what you saw in the clip, or, think of different ways that the girls could act that you feel would make the scene more effective. When you are finished, rehearse the scene in your groups.

MISS SCATCHERD

Burns! I will not have you before me in that attitude

TEACHER

All rise

MR BROCKLEHURST

I see you are mortifying this girl’s flesh.

MISS SCATCHERD

Sir, she was…

MR BROCKLEHURST

It is your mission to render her contrite and self denying, continue

HELEN cries out

JANE drops her slate

MR BROCKLEHURST

The new girl

This is the pedestal of infamy and you will remain upon it all day long. You will

have neither food nor drink for you must learn how barren is the life of a sinner.

Children, I exhort you to shun her, exclude her, shut her out form this day forth.

Withhold the hand of friendship and deny your love to Jane Eyre – the liar

MUSIC

SHOT OF JANE ON THE CHAIR; TIME PASSES

THE OTHER GIRLS FILE PAST JANE; HELEN STOPS TO GIVE JANE A PIECE OF BREAD