Make a film!

It’s time to turn your students into actors, directors and video editors. In this issue, ETp is launching a filmmaking competition.

Opposite is a story (Left on the shelf) from Jamie Keddie’s new book, Videotelling. Your students’ task is quite simply to create a short film (five minutes maximum) to bring this story to life.

Encourage the students to interpret the text and invent answers to their own questions. For example, Who are these characters? Why didn’t they stop? Are they human? What was the careless little action, and who was responsible for it? What happened to her? What happened to him?

This could be a whole-class effort. Alternatively, you could take a more autonomous approach and get your students scripting, planning, finding locations, shooting and editing in small groups. It’s up to you.

Upload your students’ videos onto a video-sharing site (YouTube, Vimeo, etc) and send the links to: helena.gomm@pavpub.com, no later than September 20th, 2016. You must include your name, postal address and email address.

The winning video will be announced in ETp Issue 107 (published in November, 2016). We have £100 of Amazon gift vouchers for the winning students to share. And their teacher will receive a signed copy of Jamie Keddie’s book Videotelling, which will be available later this year.

Good luck!

Important note: If your students are under 18 years old and they are to appear in their own videos, you must get parental permission. You must also get permission to share their videos online.

Left on the shelf

It’s almost as if they were made for each other

Love at first sight
He was going one way
She was going the other
He smiled at her
She smiled back
And that was it
No chance to stop

Neither of them thought
That they would ever meet again
But perhaps this love was meant to be
Because against all odds
Their paths crossed
Not once, not twice, but three more times

They fell in love
He popped the question
She said yes
They tied the knot
And their love went from strength to strength

But then one day everything changed
A careless little action
A situation beyond their control
And against their will they were forced apart
Made to go their separate ways

She went on to new things
A new life
A new reason
A new purpose

But not so far away from here
In a forgotten little corner
He lives alone with nothing but memories
Loveless
Homeless
Purposeless
A terrible feeling of emptiness
Sometimes he thinks that life might have been better
If only he had been
Left on the shelf