



Across the Divide

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BRIAN GALLAGHER

Teaching Guide

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RATIONALE AND THEMES

Although the context of the story is historical, the themes have a universal and contemporary resonance. Nora and Liam are at once challenged by the injustices of their society and intimidated by the acceptance of it that they find around them. Their friendship and Nora's growing awareness of the differences determined by their social status help them to remove the layers of prejudice and galvanise them into action.

The themes include:

- Prejudice
- Injustice
- Human rights
- Friendship
- Courage
- Social division
- Poverty

SUMMARY

Dublin in 1913 is a divided city. The divisions run deep and their boundaries are marked by social class, education, opportunity, language and wealth. The boundaries are strictly maintained at every level of society. Acceptance rather than opportunity is the currency, creating a society with extremes of poverty, oppression, healthcare, working conditions and housing.

Against this backdrop and the movement for labour reform driven by Jim Larkin, Nora and Liam use the subversion of their mixed social class choir to step outside their class preconceptions and make their own personal statements for justice.

APPROACH

An effective approach to using the book would be to highlight that everyone has the right to the dignity that a just society will provide in terms of employment, housing

and opportunity. This has a particularly contemporary resonance in the area of Development Education.

The themes and plot offer a wealth of SPHE opportunities to identify how prejudice and injustice can affect lives and how courage is needed to stand against it.

Whole class activities could include circle time, peer group discussions, debates, hot seating, etc.

UNIT 1 Seeds of Trouble PAGES 8-69

SUMMARY

Liam is caught up and injured when the police break up a banned meeting organised by the famous Jim Larkin.

The narrative then switches back in time and we watch as the friendship between Liam and Nora develops through their love of singing and their participation in Brother Raymond's choir. In the process, Nora becomes aware, not only of the social injustices of Dublin in 1913, but also how their differing views have been shaped by the economic circumstances of their families' backgrounds and the tyranny of the existing 'social order'.

They meet as *feis* competitors when Liam comes to her rescue. Nora is immediately charmed, but when she introduces him to her mother, she cautions Nora that he is not from their social class.

After the *feis*, both Nora and Liam are invited as inaugural members of a unique choir. Brother Raymond's new choir has ignored the social conventions to recruit members from every social class and to mix boys and girls. It gives Liam and Nora a chance to develop their clandestine friendship and they start to understand each other's backgrounds.

When Nora expresses her irritation at Mr Larkin's activities that are causing social inconvenience for her family, she discovers that for Liam, Larkin is a hero who is trying to change the appalling conditions of the Dublin working class.

When Nora tries to debate this at home she finds herself deflected and the source of her information questioned.

As summer approaches, Nora is shocked when her teacher, Miss Dillon, announces to the class that she is to leave: she has been dismissed for encouraging the girls to aspire to develop their role in society. Nora is angry and resolves to make her own statement with an activity that her teacher would be proud of.

Bro. Raymond arranges a treat for the choir in Bewleys. Nora and Liam exchange their dreams about an ideal holiday, leaving Nora feeling uncomfortable about the comparative privilege of her holiday in Torquay. Their goodbyes are complicated when Liam accepts a gift of a book from Nora; however he is able to rationalise his feelings with the view that a friend is just that, irrespective of background.

DISCUSSION POINTS

- (Read pp 12 - 14) After Larkin was arrested, the DMP used a baton charge to clear the streets without seeming to give anyone a chance to disperse peacefully. Why do you think that they chose this method of crowd control? Do you think they were justified in using a baton charge against the crowd?
- (Read pp 14) Before Larkin made his appearance on the balcony of the hotel, he must have suspected that there would be trouble and that people would be injured. Do you think that he should have cancelled the meeting? Can you divide yourselves into two

groups and argue the merits of him appearing or cancelling before you decide what advice you would give him if you were one of his advisors?

- (Read pp 30 – 31) Nora's mum believed that Miss Dillon was trying to upset the social order. Can you decide what you think the social order was? Where do you think Liam's and Nora's families were in the order? What sort of things might upset the order and how do you think Miss Dillon was seen to be disrupting it? Do you think what Miss Dillon was doing was beneficial to her pupils?
- (Read pp 48 - 49) Liam's reply indicates that he has a gender bias – or does it? Do you think it is ever acceptable for some jobs/activities to be solely either for men or for women? Is there any activity/ pastime that you would not take part in because it is seen to be either for men or for women?
- (Read pp 68 – 69) Liam was reluctant to take the book as a gift from Nora. He felt that his acceptance was a betrayal of his father and compromised his loyalty to Larkin. What could you say to Liam to convince him that it was perfectly OK for him to accept the book? Which of your arguments do you think would be the most persuasive and why?

ACTIVITIES

1. A Few Words

(Read p 11) Larkin realises that when he appears on the hotel balcony he will only have ONE minute to deliver a speech; so every word he uses is vital. If you were asked to help him write his speech, could you make suggestions on what he should say that will be brief and effective?

Could you rank the points so that the most important things are said first? You might like to deliver your speech to the class and try to get all the important things said inside a minute.

2. Amnesty

(Read pp 12 – 14) Amnesty International (www.amnesty.org.uk) is an organisation that helps anyone who is oppressed in any way. One of the ways they do this is to document the facts and then circulate these widely in a report. It is vital that they get the facts of any incident.

Liam has been struck on the head and his memory is a little confused. Could you

help him to complete a factual statement about what he saw in Sackville Street? Remember: facts are what he has actually seen and heard himself.

3. At First Sight

(Read pp 17 – 20) Backstage at the feis, Nora meets Liam for the first time and they seem to make friends very quickly. There was something about him that she liked immediately. Imagine that later when she is writing in her diary about him she is trying to decide what exactly it was about him that she liked.

She decides that there are three things she liked about him. What do you think Nora wrote in her diary? Do you think that you could recreate her entry for that night?

4. Nora's Friend

(Read p 24) When she meets him, Nora's mum instantly dislikes Liam. Why do you think this is so?

Can you identify three things that she notices about Liam and explain what she thinks that these tell her about him?

If she were choosing a suitable friend for Nora, what do you think would be the three most important factors in her decision? Can you explain what these would tell her?

5. The Suffragette

(Read pp 30 – 31)

www.spiritus-temporis.com/suffragette/

www.niace.org.uk/projects/esolcitizenship/docs/3.5Adaptable.doc

www.parliament.uk/business/publications/parliamentary-archives/archives-highlights/archives-the-suffragettes/

When the suffragette movement began, it was the beginning of emancipation for women. Lots of things have changed since then.

Could you work in groups to research these changes and make a list of the 5 most influential changes that have taken place? Can you choose what you think are the two most important and say what their effect has been?

What one thing would you like to see happen today in order for the process of emancipation to continue? Can you say why?

6. Independence

(Read p 35) Nora has been allowed to travel to the choir alone and is enjoying the

sense of independence and responsibility it has given her. Can you recall, describe and illustrate the first time that you felt a similar sense of independence?

You may use as much detail as you think appropriate.

7. Living like Cattle

(Read p 47) Nora is shocked when Liam describes the living conditions of workers in Dublin. Nowadays things are much improved. However it is easy to take things for granted.

Can you make a short list of 5 activities that you do as part of your normal daily routine and describe how and why you are able to do them?

Now describe how these activities would be affected if you were living in one room with ten other family members?

8. Infant Mortality

(Read p 47)

<https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/>

The infant mortality rate is a measure of how many children in every 1000 born in any country will die before their second or third birthday and is an indication of how well a country is able to look after its own people.

In Ireland today the rate is very low; however this is not the case in other countries.

Can you pick 3 countries from each continent and make a graph of their infant mortality rates? You can get the information from the website.

Can you describe what the information/patterns from your graph tell you?

9. A Decent Rate

(Read p 53) The dock workers were pleased with their wage of 5 shillings for a 10-hour day. This is about €1.80 per week.

Can you research the newspapers and find 5 manual jobs and 5 non-manual jobs?

Make a simple graph of the average wage for each group of jobs. What do you discover?

What wage do **YOU** think that you would need to live comfortably today in Ireland?

How many people do you think live below the poverty line in Ireland? You can use this site to help you research.

www.socialinclusion.ie/poverty.html

10. The Three Things

(Read pp 50 – 57) Scenario: Nora is surprised when she discovers that Jim Larkin and Bro. Raymond are friends. She finds them chatting during a rehearsal break and decides to tell him what her father said about poor families not being **MADE** to live in one room.

Larkin looks at Bro. Raymond and then smiles at Nora. When he speaks, he says,

“Nora. There are three things that everyone has the right to expect.

Three things that are not dependant on their circumstances.

Three things that will support their human dignity and improve their life expectancy.

Three things that will ensure **EVERYONE** can fulfil their potential.

These three things are

Can you work in groups to decide all the possibilities for the things which Larkin might have told Nora? When you have completed your list you can decide which three of them might be the ones he meant.

Can you explain why you chose them?

UNIT 2 Showdown PAGES 72 – 158

SUMMARY

For Nora, even on holiday in Devon, the shadow of Larkin is evident and she makes her own act of suffragette defiance when she ‘accidentally’ drenches her obnoxious cousin with a bucket of water.

In Dublin, Liam enjoys the perfect day out in Skerries with his parents, complete with picnic and bands, as they listen to Larkin try to enlist the support of the agricultural workers to the union.

As summer ends, the choir provides the opportunity for both of them to share their memories. Nora finds herself increasingly convinced of the justice of the workers’ demands.

Nora’s mother continues to be suspicious of Bro. Raymond and the choir and her misgivings seem to be confirmed when she sees the evidence of how the other parents dress at a charity concert that the choir gives. Nora however is able to manipulate her father’s support to prevent her mother removing her from the choir. Nora and Liam realise that they must keep their

friendship secret.

The influence of Larkin grows for Nora and she finds that she is now able to debate about workers’ rights with her mother.

When Liam overhears his parents discuss the ban on a public meeting called by Larkin, he goes along and is hospitalised from a baton blow during the ensuing riot.

When Bro. Raymond tells Nora the news she immediately sets off to visit Liam in hospital. She is shocked by his account and sees that she will eventually have to choose a position.

The tension between employers and workers intensifies. Hunger is a reality for many of the strikers’ families. There are rumours of lockouts and arrests.

Then Larkin delivers his coup. He has gone to England to rally support and has secured a shipload of provisions for the Dublin strikers. Liam and his dad watch as the ship docks and the food is unloaded for distribution from Liberty Hall.

Nora agrees to help Liam distribute the food parcels and develops a sense of solidarity with the people she meets. She is shocked at the living conditions and anxious lest her reaction is obvious.

The difference in their lifestyles is shown as Nora prepares for a masquerade party to celebrate the opening of the Panama Canal while Liam’s family face uncertainty following the arrest of his dad.

Nora is increasingly politically aware. At school she is dismissed when trying to present an argument.

At the choir, Nora uses her middle-class status to lead: she eats the stew which only the poor members previously ate, allowing others to do so without humiliation.

Liam’s family face real hardship. When a plan to secure food supplies from his mother’s family in Westmeath is thwarted, Liam decides that he will go himself.

DISCUSSION POINTS

- (Read p152) The employers tried to break the strikes by hiring other men to do the work. Some of these men themselves were desperate for work and it was a terrible decision for them to have to make: to take the work or let their families go hungry. If you were offered work as a ‘scab’ how would you convince your own conscience that you should take the work? What arguments would you give to the strikers? Could you organise a class debate?

Strikers v Scabs.

- (Read pp 114 – 115 / 141 – 142 & 146 – 147) Liam is proud and very reluctant to accept charity. Nora understands this and disguises her help so that it can be accepted with dignity. Can you think about how we can support other people under the headings of HELP or CHARITY? Do you think there is any difference between giving help and giving charity? Do you think it makes a difference to the person who is receiving the support?
- (Read pp 129 – 131) Nora feels guilty about her conflicting feelings for the injustice she sees around her and her wish to enjoy the preparations for the fancy dress party. How do you think she should handle her feelings and what advice or suggestions would you make to her?
- (Read p 110 & pp 144 – 148) Larkin has been arrested, tried, sentenced and jailed. Then almost immediately he is released. If he was innocent, why was he imprisoned, and if he was guilty why was he released? What do you think has happened? Is it fair that someone can be released because he has lots of supporters who believe him innocent?
- (Read p 73) The unions have begun ‘sympathy’ strikes in order to make their actions really effective, and the employers are furious at this new tactic. Do you think it is reasonable for workers in one business to go on strike to support other workers, even though they have no quarrel with their own employer? Can you decide if you think this is a fair tactic?

ACTIVITIES

1. A Fool and a Bully

(Read pp 76 – 77) Alan is arrogant, prejudiced and dismisses the Suffragettes as stupid, ugly attention-seekers without ever listening to what they have to say. There are lots of people like this who condemn others without trying to understand them.

Can you work in groups and draw two columns on a large sheet of paper. Label one column **PREJUDICED COMMENT** and the other column **UNBIASED COMMENT**.

Choose one or more groups from *migrant workers / the unemployed / people on benefits / disabled people / the rich / country people*.

Now write 5 prejudiced comments and try to match each with an unbiased comment about the group you have chosen. When you have finished can you select the most prejudiced and explain why it might be unrepresentative of your group?

2. It's a Perfect Day

(Read PP 79 – 80) Liam has gone to Skerries for the day and it has been perfect. He is with his family, marching with the band, listening to Larkin and enjoying a delicious picnic.

Can you remember a time when you enjoyed a day as much as Liam's day?

Could you describe the ingredients of your day and explain how you felt?

You may add an illustration if you like.

3. Larkin Said

(Read pp 77 – 79 & 84) On the way home, Liam and his parents are discussing Larkin's speech to the farm workers. They agree that it was a great speech, but each of them remembered a different part of the speech as the best.

Can you work in small groups to decide what you think Liam and his mam and dad might have remembered from the speech?

You can make their recollections either a brief comment or a quote, but try to explain your decisions.

4. Ballsbridge Fashions

(Read p 91) The 'cream' of Dublin society has gathered at Ballsbridge for the RDS Horse Show. It is a beautiful day and you have been sent there as the society reporter for the *Dublin Chronicle*.

You have to write a short, interesting piece on the fashions and personalities you see there.

You can either use your own illustration or from the Internet to complement your piece.

5. Absolutely Outrageous

(Read pp 92 – 93) When they are forced to walk to the RDS because of the tram strike Nora's mother is furious and decides to write a letter of complaint to W. M. Murphy, the Chairman of the Dublin Tram Company, whom she has met socially several times.

Do you think you could write the letter she sent?

6. Get Well Soon:

(Read pp 100 102) Bro. Raymond and Nora have organised the choir to send a Get Well card to Liam in hospital. Could you work in groups to design the card that you think they might have sent? (**Remember... It is 1913**)

Nora chose the design and everyone, including Bro. Raymond, wrote a little comment.

There are boys and girls in the choir. Some of the comments will be impersonal while some might be more personal and humorous.

Do you think you could recreate the card and include an individual comment from all 20 choir members and Bro. Raymond?

7. In the Newspapers:

(Read p103 & pp 11 – 14) Nora has visited Liam in hospital and heard for herself Liam's grim recollections of the way the DMP handled the public meeting in Sackville Street and the injuries that occurred.

The following morning, Nora's father is reading a report of the event in his newspaper and Nora can hardly believe that the paper's report is so biased and inaccurate. She cuts out the report and headline to show to Liam.

Can you write what you think the report said? Remember, this is a paper that is read mainly by the employers. The report is about 150 words long and you may add your own illustration if you like.

8. Dear Liam

(Read p 134) Liam's dad is now in jail and he knows that Liam will be worrying about him. He is on 'hard labour' and is not allowed to send or receive any letters. He is only allowed one visit a week from his wife.

However he manages to get a pencil and writes a short letter to Liam on the torn-off margin of a newspaper. He passes the note to his wife during a visit and she gives it to Liam.

What do you think he said in the note? Do you think you could create a copy of the note?

9. What a Stew

(Read p 142) It is just a simple plate of stew but Bro. Raymond, Nora, Liam and the middle-class choir members each have a different motive for eating it.

Can you draw a picture of the plate of stew

and add a recipe and ingredient list?

Now draw 4 speech bubbles coming from the stew with a comment from Liam, Nora, Bro. Raymond and the middle-class choir members, explaining their impression of the stew and their motive for eating it.

10. Bro. Raymond

(Read p86 / pp 109 -110 / pp 141 – 142 / pp 154 155) Liam, Nora and her mother each have their own opinion about Bro. Raymond and his motives involving the choir. Can you make 3 lists of adjectives that each of them might use to describe Bro. Raymond? Try to find 5 adjectives for each of the lists. Remember that Nora is more polite and articulate than Liam.

You can draw a picture of your impression of Bro. Raymond and then pick three of the adjectives that you would use to describe him and explain your choice.

UNIT 3 Endgame PAGES 160 – 235

SUMMARY

Liam is on his way to Ballinacargy. He has managed to sneak aboard the Sligo train without a ticket, but the ticket collector sees him and he has to jump from the train as it approaches a station. Uninjured, but cold and shaken, he tries to find his bearings in a frozen and unfamiliar landscape.

Meanwhile Nora has decided to follow Liam to his aunt's farm and is able to enlist her friend Mary's help by recalling Miss Dillon's mantra that change is possible if they have the courage to pursue it.

Liam successfully circumvents the little town where he jumped from the train. As snow continues to fall he decides that he should follow the canal tow path; his dad had said that the Royal canal and the railway run West together until they reach the Shannon.

Liam stumbles across a barge unloading beer and is recognised by one of the bargemen. When he explains his quest they offer him a lift on the barge for the rest of his journey to Mullingar.

In Dublin, Nora completes her deception and sets out alone but determined to find Liam, the farm and then help him return with the food for his family.

The heavy fog and snow threaten to disrupt Liam's attempts to follow the bargemen's

directions and Nora has to employ her mother's manner to persuade a suspicious cab driver to take her to the farm.

Nora spots a huddled figure on the road ahead. It is Liam. Their relief is joyous and the rest of the journey to his aunt's farm is a babble of exuberant explanations.

The welcome from Liam's aunt Molly is generous and warm. They realise that an immediate return to Dublin is not possible. Molly insists they spend the night while she gathers provisions.

Nora is now reconciled to her parents discovering her subterfuge.

The return to Dublin next morning is relatively uneventful, though they save the fare by hiding in the goods carriage. When they reach the ticket barrier in Dublin, Nora uses her acting skills to create a diversion that allows Liam to slip past the ticket collector unnoticed with the food.

On his way home, Liam has a strange encounter with Martin Connolly, the toughest boy in his class, and realises how the ravages of hunger can reduce even the toughest. His reception at home is joyous and he is delighted to discover that his father has been released from jail.

Nora persuades the ticket collector to allow her to ring her parents and then waits for them to collect her by car. Her anxieties prove groundless and her welcome is no less relieved than Liam's had been.

Things have now changed irrevocably and the tale concludes as Nora's parents insist that she end her relationship with Liam, which she does gently in a poignant letter to him. However the influences of all that she saw and learned during their friendship endure.

DISCUSSION POINTS

- (Read p 164) Nora decides on impulse, while she is very angry, to follow Liam to Ballinacargy. Do you think it was sensible of her to make her decision while she was so angry? What are the dangers of making a decision in this way? If she hadn't been so angry, do you think she would have made the same decision?
- (Read p 182) Nora has deceived her mother. She has made up an elaborate excuse to hide the fact that she intends to follow Liam. Do you think this is a fair way to treat her mother? Should she have told her mother what she intended to do and ask for her help? How do you think her mother felt

when she realised that Nora had deceived her. Did she deserve to be treated in this way?

- (Read p 199) Nora now knows that she will have to spend the night at the farm and her deception will be discovered by her parents. However she is calm and does not regret what she has done. Why do you think she is so calm? Do you think this is a sensible response? What does it tell you about Nora and the way she is thinking?
- (Read pp 224 – 226 & 232) When Liam and Nora return, their parents are relieved and welcome them home. Do you think Nora's parents showed a different reaction? Do you think they were proud of her? Can you explain their reaction? Why do you think her parents insisted that Nora tell no-one about her adventure? What does this tell you about them?
- (Read pp 226 – 227) Nora's mother has removed her from Bro. Raymond's choir and has insisted that she have no further contact with Liam. Nora agrees to this. Why do you think she is willing to give up her friendship so easily? Her mother however allows her to write to Liam one last time. Why do you think she has given permission and what does this tell you about what she is thinking?

ACTIVITIES

1. Dear Mam

(Read P 161) Liam has left a note for his mother to explain his absence. He has tried to reassure her that he has thought of everything and will be able to cope. He also wants to explain his reasons but must be careful not to make his mum feel guilty because food is short and dad is in jail. He has asked you to write a draft of the letter for him. Do you think that you will be able to help him?

2. I Know his Dad

(Read p 177) Tim Morrissey recognises Liam and listens to his story before he decides to help. He approaches the barge captain to ask if they can take Liam as far as Mullingar on the barge.

Scenario: The captain is reluctant to take a child on board and suggest that they contact the police and arrange for him to be returned home.

How do you think that Tim persuaded him? What arguments did they each use?

Can you work in small groups to create a short dialogue/sketch between the two men to show how the argument was won? You can perform your sketch for the rest of your class.

3. The Prayer

(Read pp 178 – 179) Nora has said a prayer for Liam and his family. In the prayer she asks for protection for them. Do you think you could compose her prayer? What might she say in the prayer? You might like to think about or include:

- A plea for protection for their family.
- A request for assistance in reaching his aunt safely
- An appeal for a just outcome to the conflict.

4. The Dream

(Read p 180) Liam drifts off to sleep. He is exhausted and the rocking of the barge soothes him. However his sleep is fitful and his dreams are very strange and confused.

His dreams include all the characters and events that he has met so far and they are all mixed up in a very odd way and make no sense to him.

Do you think you could create a picture of one of the scenes from his dream? Who might be in it and what might they be doing? Remember, the situations will be unusual and the characters behaving strangely.

5. The Thrill

(Read p 185) Nora is on the train and is barely able to hide her excitement at what she is doing. She is thrilled with herself. Can you work in small groups to decide why Nora is so excited?

Can you make a list of three reasons why she is so excited and give the reasons for your choice?

Can you describe an event in your own experience when you felt a similar sense of excitement and thrill?

6. Icy Air & Weasel Face

(Read pp 187 – 188) When Nora exits the station she sees the carts lined up and the driver of the first one has a strange and unpleasant expression. The morning is foggy and cold.

Do you think that you could make a drawing that would capture the atmosphere of the scene that met Nora?

Read the description carefully and try to identify what you think is the most

important element. Is it the fog, or the driver's expression perhaps? You will need to make this the central theme of your drawing.

Because of the fog, there will be little colour so perhaps you could create your drawing using chalk on black paper.

7. Bargaining Skills

(Read pp 187 – 190) Nora has used her bargaining skills very successfully with the cab driver. Can you read the exchange between them carefully? There were three points in the exchange when Nora made good decisions about what to say and got the better of him.

Can you work in small groups to decide where these points were and how Nora handled them correctly?

What mistakes could Nora have made and what do you think the consequences might have been for her?

Which was the most serious mistake she avoided? Can you give a reason for your decision?

8. People

(Read p 201) Liam has realised that wealth or poverty are poor indicators of whether a person will be charitable or honourable.

He is thinking about all the people he has met and trying to decide how you should judge the differences between them.

Can you work in groups and make two lists for all the people he has met. One list for those you think were considerate and one for those who were not. Can you give a reason why you assigned everyone to their list?

What are the three main differences between the people on the two lists?

What three things do the people on the 'considerate' list have in common?

Now you can write a simple explanation for Liam. Begin with... 'Liam, considerate people are usually...'

9. Miss Dillon

(Read p 229) Scenario: When she returns to school, Nora overhears one of the teachers talking about Miss Dillon and she discovers the name of the school she has moved to.

Nora decides to write to Miss Dillon to tell her what she has done and how she was inspired and influenced by her as a teacher. Miss Dillon is moved by the card and writes a reply to congratulate and

encourage Nora.

You will need to divide the class into two groups. One group can each compose the card that they think Nora might have written and then 'send' these to the other group to respond to and write what Miss Dillon might have replied.

10. I only wanted the Best for You

(Read p 227) Scenario: It is November 1938 and Nora's mother has recently died. Nora has returned from London and is trying to sort her mother's papers.

She discovers an old diary from 1913 and out of curiosity, opens it at November 1913 to discover what her mother had written about the 'incident'. What had she really feared about Liam and what she had hoped for Nora?

What do you think Nora read? Can you recreate the diary entry? How do you think Nora reacted to what she read? Do you think she was cheered or perhaps saddened?

Class Project Ideas

The themes of the book will lend themselves very readily to extended class project/ investigation work along a number of avenues.

The following suggestions are a brief selection and are laid out as a series of questions to stimulate interest and serve as starting points.

1. If Larkin were alive today:

www.siptu.ie/AboutSIPTU/History/JamesLarkin/

- What causes might he be fighting, either in Ireland or internationally?
- What sort of things might he seek to change?
- Who would oppose/support him? Would you support him?
- What actions might he take?
- What would he think of Ireland today? What would he approve/disapprove of?
- How is Ireland different because of him?

You could use the device of either a 100th anniversary edition of a newspaper or an RTÉ documentary on his impact to provide the framework for the work.

2. Fairtrade

www.irishaid.gov.ie

www.bigpic.biz

www.fairtrade.org.uk

www.nicurriculum.org.uk/docs/key_stages_1_and_2/connected_learning/icls/years_6_7/yr6-7_needs_wants.pdf

In this activity the class can investigate the location and production conditions of the commodities we use on a daily basis to determine if they come from a just working environment.

- Where do my food & clothes come from?
- Why do sport stars promote equipment?
- What is it like to produce a pair of football boots?
- What are the conditions like for people in other countries who make things for us ?
- Would I be happy with the working conditions?
- If not, what can I do about it?