



STREET WISE

TEACHING RESOURCE

15 mins

Now ask students to form groups of four and nominate a chairman. This chairman needs to direct a discussion around these questions based in the comments they have just read:

- *Are you surprised by how much litter and arson costs each year? Why?*
- *Do you agree that boredom is a reason for anti-social behaviour? Why/Why not?*
- *Do you think some people are afraid to go out after dark in your community? If so, who?*
- *Why did Jane forgive Sean? Would you do the same in her position?*
- *Jane believes the ASBOs didn't work on the teenagers near the shops. Do you think ASBOs work?*
- *Bradley suggests that people are more likely to drop litter and vandalise if a local area already has litter in it. Do you agree?*

(Slide 4)

After having supported your students in their group work, choose one or two appropriate/challenging questions and/or statements to discuss as a whole class. 10 mins

What were the main messages of 'Street Wise'? In groups of four, ask students to brainstorm what they thought the performance was trying to raise awareness of and why before choosing one issue which they feel is the most important. 10 mins

Take feedback by asking one member of each group to write their idea on the board while another representative explains why they felt this issue is the most important.

| | | |
|---------|--|--------|
| Plenary | Look at the list of issues written on the board. Ask students what aspects of their own behaviour they will change or modify after having watched 'Street Wise'. | 5 mins |
|---------|--|--------|

Continued on next sheet ...



STREET WISE

TEACHING RESOURCE

Possible homework activity

Imagine you are going to interview one of the characters from 'Street Wise' after they have appeared on stage. Choose the character you would most like to meet and write five questions you would ask them.

Suggestions for further activities

The performance was called 'Street Wise'. Ask students what the title means and ask students to come up with a different name in pairs. Take feedback.

Is there ever an excuse for crime? Are there reasons? Why do people commit crimes? Sean said he was bored. Students could list the reasons why they believe people commit crimes, ranking them in order of validity.

Students could explore the concept of restorative justice, focusing on the benefits for the victim and the community.



STREET WISE

Say what? Who made these comments?

TEACHING RESOURCE

- Boredom does play a big part in anti-social behaviour as does peer pressure, wanting to look big in front of your mates and just plain messing around ... it is not an excuse but it is a reason for why these things happen.
- It might just seem like a little piece of litter, but it all adds up. And suddenly people are living in an environment they're not proud of and mess it up even more. It might start off with something fairly innocent... a couple of chips thrown out of a bus window, but it escalates into more serious things like tagging, breaking the glass in a bus shelter, setting fire to something. It escalates. And, when it builds up like that, you don't always realize that you're affecting other people, other people's lives.
- And the thing that scares me most – what's to stop my son from turning into him? Into Sean? It's the same streets. The same rubbish on the same streets. The same graffiti. And it's just going to get worse.
- Sure, I'd want someone to give my boy another chance. I'm not so hard that I can't see that. And maybe, maybe there's something and maybe it has taken courage for him to come here and maybe he's learnt his lesson. Maybe.
- Crimes like Sean committed before setting fire to Jane's shop and flat ... these acts of vandalism ... they're very common ... too common. They can really traumatise people, they can make people afraid to go out after dark, especially if there's lots of kids all hanging around somewhere. ... It's very intimidating.
- It was the day before they come round and do the bins, so there was bare rubbish, and it's always dirty round there anyway. Nasty. And there's rats and rat piss and that. People just chuck anything down there instead of going to the dump but sometimes it's alright, 'cos it's something we can sit on. So we was sitting on this old sofa that weren't too bad 'cos it hadn't been there long and it hadn't rained or nothing yet so it weren't mouldy. And we were just like... Well we weren't doing nothing. That's the whole point innit.

There was nothing to do.
- Sean and his friends - well, they were well known to a lot of the people in the area especially the people in the shops. There was so much vandalism, and graffiti, and bricks through windows, and abuse. We had to call the police almost every weekend. Eventually they caught some of them, and they were given curfews and ASBOs. It didn't work though, they were still hanging round all the time, still making trouble.
- Let's talk about the cost of these things on our community. I've got some figures here. Now, to clean up litter what do you think? I'll tell you, just for England alone it costs us 550 million pounds a year. But what do you think about the cost of arson? ... Every year it costs the UK 2.8 billion pounds. ... It's about seven million pounds a day. Every day. Seven million pounds.



STREET WISE

TEACHING RESOURCE

Say what? (Teachers) Who made these comments?

- Boredom does play a big part in anti-social behaviour as does peer pressure, wanting to look big in front of your mates and just plain messing around ... it is not an excuse but it is a reason for why these things happen. *(Answer: Thea)*
- It might just seem like a little piece of litter, but it all adds up. And suddenly people are living in an environment they're not proud of and mess it up even more. It might start off with something fairly innocent... a couple of chips thrown out of a bus window, but it escalates into more serious things like tagging, breaking the glass in a bus shelter, setting fire to something. It escalates. And, when it builds up like that, you don't always realize that you're affecting other people, other people's lives. *(Answer: Bradley)*
- And the thing that scares me most –what's to stop my son from turning into him? Into Sean? It's the same streets. The same rubbish on the same streets. The same graffiti. And it's just going to get worse. *(Answer: Jane)*
- Sure, I'd want someone to give my boy another chance. I'm not so hard that I can't see that. And maybe, maybe there's something and maybe it has taken courage for him to come here and maybe he's learnt his lesson. Maybe. *(Answer: Bradley)*
- Crimes like Sean committed before setting fire to Jane's shop and flat ... these acts of vandalism ... they're very common ... too common. They can really traumatise people, they can make people afraid to go out after dark, especially if there's lots of kids all hanging around somewhere. ... It's very intimidating. *(Answer: Thea)*
- It was the day before they come round and do the bins, so there was bare rubbish, and it's always dirty round there anyway. Nasty. And there's rats and rat piss and that. People just chuck anything down there instead of going to the dump but sometimes it's alright, 'cos it's something we can sit on. So we was sitting on this old sofa that weren't too bad 'cos it hadn't been there long and it hadn't rained or nothing yet so it weren't mouldy. And we were just like... Well we weren't doing nothing That's the whole point innit.

There was nothing to do. *(Answer: Sean)*

Continued on next sheet ...



STREET WISE

TEACHING RESOURCE

- Sean and his friends - well, they were well known to a lot of the people in the area especially the people in the shops. There was so much vandalism, and graffiti, and bricks through windows, and abuse. We had to call the police almost every weekend. Eventually they caught some of them, and they were given curfews and ASBOs. It didn't work though, they were still hanging round all the time, still making trouble.

(Answer: Jane)

- Let's talk about the cost of these things on our community. I've got some figures here. Now, to clean up litter what do you think? I'll tell you, just for England alone it costs us 550 million pounds a year. But what do you think about the cost of arson? ... Every year it costs the UK 2.8 billion pounds. ... It's about seven million pounds a day. Every day. Seven million pounds.

(Answer: Richard)