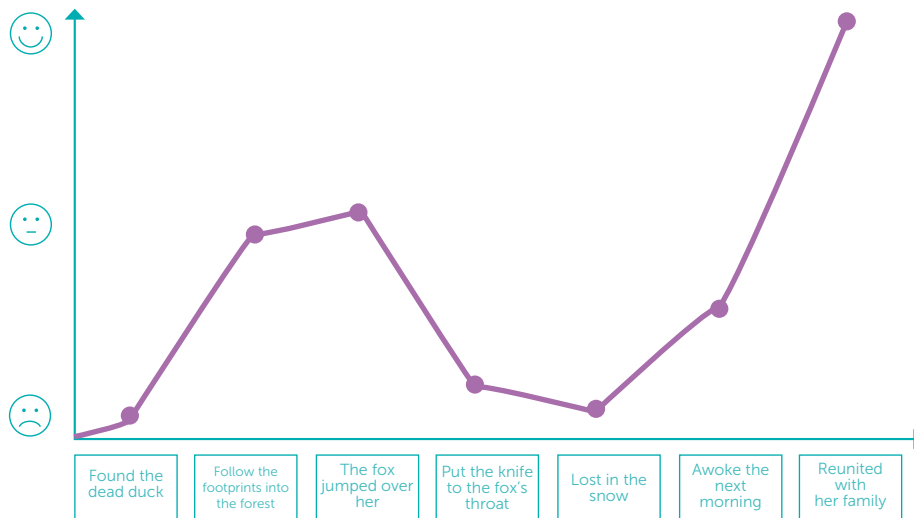# Focus on Character

Use this activity to take notice of characters' actions, body language and speech, and to help you to discuss characters using the **3Cs and 3Ss dice game** and write about them in your film reviews.

FOR THIS ACTIVITY YOU WILL NEED:

- A pen or pencil.
- A printout of the graph on page 3, or you can draw this onto a piece of paper.
- A short film (under ten minutes long) or 5-6 clips from a feature film.

To complete the Focus on Character activity:

- You can complete a graph on your own or work in small groups. If you are working in small groups it is best to enlarge the graph on page 3 to A3 or draw the graph on a large sheet of paper.

- One person should volunteer to start and stop the film. This may be stopping a short film 5-6 times or playing 5-6 clips from different points in a feature film (choose clips from the beginning, middle and end).

- The person who is starting and stopping the film should play the first clip or section.

- When they stop the film the first time, everyone should decide which character they

are going to focus on. If there is more than one character in the film and several groups or people taking part in this activity, each group should choose a different character.

- If there is only one character in the film, everyone can focus on that character for the activity.

- Each time the film is stopped, or a different clip is played, you should decide what emotion the character is feeling and plot it on your graph.

- After you have watched 5-6 clips, or the whole short film, you should have a graph like the example on the next page.

Graph 1 x-axis labels: Found the dead duck | Follow the footprints into the forest | The fox jumped over her | Put the knife to the fox's throat | Lost in the snow | Awoke the next morning | Reunited with her family
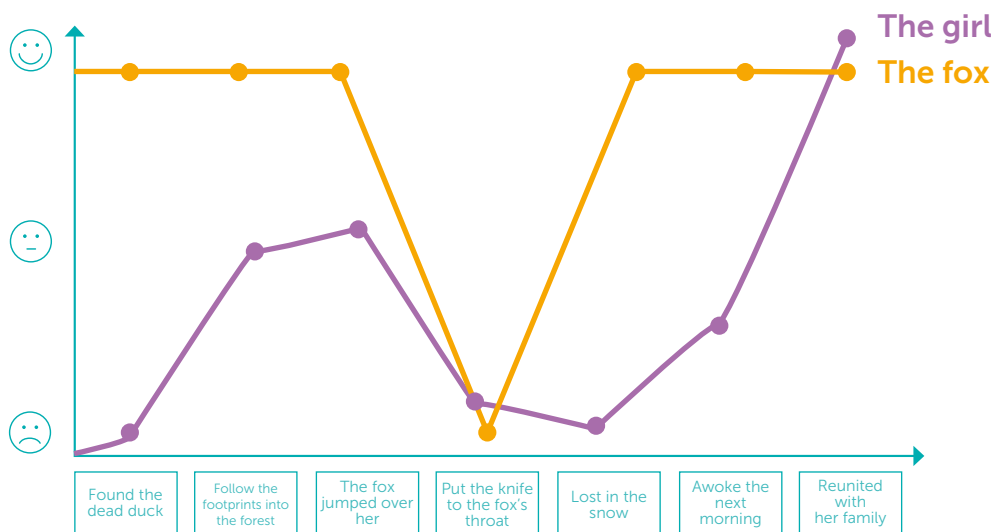
- If everyone has been looking at the same character, discuss how different people's graphs are similar or different.

- If everyone has been looking at different characters, discuss how different characters are feeling at different points in the film.

- Discuss how you decided how a character was feeling, for example the actions they took, their facial expressions, their body language and any words that they said.

To make this activity more challenging, try to create a graph for more than one character at once, like the example below.

The girl
The fox

Graph 2 x-axis labels: Found the dead duck | Follow the footprints into the forest | The fox jumped over her | Put the knife to the fox's throat | Lost in the snow | Awoke the next morning | Reunited with her family

For more challenge, you may like to work with a film where the characters are not human or with characters that do not speak.

INTO FILM CLUBS

Plot significant
scenes here

Plot
emotions
here