 Resource 11

Perspective Activities

**Part A**

**‘Perspective is a lens through which we learn to see the world; it shapes what we see and the way we see it. The lens can clarify, magnify, distort or blur what we see. By changing the position of the lens, different aspects of the text may be foregrounded.’**

[Perspective, English Textual Concepts](http://www.englishtextualconcepts.nsw.edu.au/content/perspective)

* Go to the Serial Season 1, episode 2 section of the website.
* Scroll down to ‘Related to Episode 2’ and then find the entry dated October 5.

In this text, Sarah Koenig recounts a lesson Adnan taught her about perspective, using the graphs about the price of tea to illustrate his point. Look at the graphs and discuss what they notice with your class.

Read the entry and discuss:

1. What was the purpose of Adnan showing Sarah Koenig the riddle?
2. What her purpose was in including it here?
3. What does the message of the riddle and Adnan’s lesson tell us about Koenig’s purpose?
4. What do we learn about perspective from this?

Part B

‘**Perspective includes the values that the responder and composer bring to a text. In a text these values are expressed and/or implied through the composer’s language and structure which may position the responder to accept them’.**

[Perspective, English Textual Concepts](http://www.englishtextualconcepts.nsw.edu.au/content/perspective)

In Episode 1, Koenig established her purpose.

Listen to the episode up to 13:03 minutes, “So it’s either Jay or its Adnan. But someone is lying and I really wanted to figure out who.”

**During Listening Questions:**

1. Comment on the tone Koenig establishes in her introduction and suggest a reason for her use of that tone.
2. Before providing any details of the case, Keonig positions listeners to consider the unreliability of memory. Identify two ways in which she does this.
3. Describe the music used during the interviews with the teenage boys that Koenig says she did “for a lark”. What does the music add?
4. Koenig identifies herself in her introduction by saying, “I’m not a detective or private investigator. I’m not even a crime reporter.” Why does Rabia choose to bring the case to the attention of Keonig?
5. Comment on the sound of the interviews with Rabia and Saad. What is the effect of including interviews like this?
6. “And on paper, the case was like a Shakespearean mash-up – young lovers from different worlds, thwarting their families…” What is the purpose of the Shakespearean allusion?
7. Outline how Koenig represents Rabia and Saad.
8. Rabia and Saad’s description of Adnan are the first thing listeners hear about him. Why do you think Koenig has chosen to include a positive representation of Adnan first?
9. Why was it important for Koening to draw parallels between Saad and Adnan?
10. Identify the first fact we are provided with about Jay. How does the inclusion of this fact position listeners to view Jay?

**After Listening**

1. What is Koenig’s perspective on Adnan and the case?
2. What textual choices has she made in Episode 1 that invite us to adopt her perspective?