

Lead in

A. Ask the students to write a sentence to describe what the people should do in the following situations.

1. A teacher sees a student crying.

What should the teacher do?

2. A restaurant manager finds out that an employee is stealing money from the cash register.

What should the manager do?

3. A doctor discovers that a patient died due to a medical mistake which the hospital concealed.

What should the doctor do?

Students will probably fall into your trap and they'll use 'she' for the teacher and 'he' for the doctor and the manager. If they don't, don't worry. Ask a few more questions on the topic and there will definitely be a few slips. Write the students' answers on the board.

Ask your students: 'Why did you use 'he' for the doctor and 'she' for the teacher?'

'What indications did you have it was a man or a woman?'

The students will probably chuckle and they will be quick to get the topic of the lesson.

Ask them to discuss: 'What are the gender stereotypes that the society has enforced upon us?'

'Have these changed over the years?'

Feedback

B. Most of the students will probably know *Doctor Who* but some might know nothing about the TV series.

You need to ensure that all students are on the same page.

Therefore show your students a short video <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=j4e50iHelW8> .

Ask your students: 'What does Doctor Who do?'

'What qualities has he got?'

Feedback

Now show them the trailer of the new season <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=q1IczjLYCIM>

Ask your students: 'What's different this time?'

'How do you think the fans will react?'

During feedback also discuss: Can the qualities we have already discussed be attributed to a woman?'

Prediction Tasks

A. Give the students the title of the article.

'A Female *Doctor Who* Is Exactly What the Franchise Needed.'

Ask the students: 'Is the author of the article in favour or against this change?'

'How do you know? Which words helped you understand?'

B. Cut the article into its 5 paragraphs and give the 1st paragraph to the students.

Ask them to read the **1st paragraph** and answer the following questions.

'Is the author indeed in favour of this change? Yes

'What helped you understand this?' *at last*

What do you think the next paragraph will be about?



The last sentence of each paragraph is always going to be quite revealing on what comes next.

*Here it's '**Some will call it political correctness run amok, and they'll be entirely wrong.**'*

So in the next paragraph we would expect to read why they were wrong and if it's not political correctness, what is it?

Ask them to read the **2nd paragraph** and answer the following questions.

'Were your predictions right?'

'If it's not political correctness, what is it?' *stand out from the pack*

'What do you think the next paragraph will be about?'

The last sentence is '**In the 21st century making the Doctor a woman wasn't just necessary, it was inevitable.**

So in the next paragraph we would expect to read why in the 21st century making the Doctor a woman is inevitable. What has changed over the years?

Ask them to read the **3rd paragraph** and answer the following questions.

‘Were your predictions right?’

‘What has changed over the years?’ *life has evolved*

‘What do you think the next paragraph will be about?’

The last sentence is ‘**Now I realize these are precisely the reasons to do it.**’

Here it’s necessary to check where the word these refers to. It refers to all the potential problems Doctor Who might face as a woman. Ask your students what they expect to read next after somebody has presented them with a problem. The obvious-hopefully- answer is solutions which will follow in the next paragraph.

Ask them to read the **4th paragraph** and answer the following questions.

‘Were your predictions right?’

‘What do you think the next and final paragraph will be about?’

The last sentence is ‘**Now is unquestionably the right time to make the Doctor a woman and take the series to another level.**’

So in the next paragraph we would expect to read what this other level is.

Ask them to read the **5th paragraph** and answer the following questions.

‘Were your predictions right?’

‘What’s the next level the series will go to?’ *dabble into transgender issues*

Once you have finished don’t forget to give your students the whole article to keep it in their folder.

Ask them to think why it is important to be able to predict the content of each paragraph.

speeds up reading

Follow up/Speaking

Ask the students to discuss the following

‘Are there more male or female executive managers and executives?’

‘Why do you think this is?’

‘What are some habits that most people think are appropriate for a man but not for a woman and vice versa?’

Feedback

The article is taken from

<http://www.vulture.com/2017/07/doctor-who-jodie-whittaker-is-exactly-what-the-franchise-needed.html>

A Female Doctor Who Is Exactly What the Franchise Needed

by Ross Ruediger

“I want to tell the fans not to be scared by my gender. Because this is a really exciting time, and Doctor Who represents everything that’s exciting about change. The fans have lived through so many changes, and this is only a new, different one, not a fearful one.” – Jodie Whittaker

It’s the groundbreaking casting decision that’s caused aftershocks to ripple across the internet: 35-year-old Jodie Whittaker, best known to U.S. TV viewers as *Broadchurch*’s Beth Latimer, will be the thirteenth actor to portray the central character in the long-running BBC series *Doctor Who*, marking the first time in the show’s 54-year history that the part will be at last played by a woman. Some will call it political correctness run amok, and they’ll be entirely wrong.

This development is something *Doctor Who* desperately needs. It’s an old series that has been on for ten seasons across 12 years, amid a sci-fi/fantasy/superhero TV marketplace that gets more crowded every season. In order to stay relevant, *Doctor Who* must continue to reach for the stars and do things that make it stand out from the pack. It’s no longer enough just to be the oldest sci-fi series on TV. In the 21st century making the Doctor a woman wasn’t just necessary, it was inevitable.

Of course, there will be pushback. Of course, people will say they’re going to stop watching the series. Truth be told? As someone who’s been a fan since I was a teenager, I used to be one of those people. But over the years, I evolved and life made me realize that not only can the Doctor be a woman, but that he *should* be. One of my old rationalizations was, “But how can she go back into the past without being discriminated against? How would she stride into the King’s Court in the 15th century and not be hauled away for insulting male royalty simply because she’s an outspoken woman?” Now I realize these are precisely the reasons to do it.

A smart series about a time-traveling Doctor in a woman’s body suddenly takes on a significance the series never had before. The Doctor will have to work to be taken seriously in ways that she’d previously taken for granted, in both the past and the present. Today, right now, a woman still has to work twice as hard as a man to get the same job. Indeed, if science fiction and fantasy in any way mirror reality, *Doctor Who* is set to be in better shape than ever. Women have led the past two *Star Wars* movies (with more to come). When *Star Trek* returns later this year, a woman will be its central figure. *This is the summer of Wonder Woman*. Now is unquestionably the right time to make the Doctor a woman and take the series to another level.

A series about the Doctor dealing with being in a woman’s body for the very first time has the potential to breathe a whole new life into it at a time when it’s been generally acknowledged that mainstream audiences have been losing interest in the program. Writing a program about a figure that’s lived for 2,000 years as a man suddenly becoming a woman also opens up the series to dabble into transgender issues. We’re on the cusp of *Doctor Who* potentially becoming important, closely watched television.