



CLASSROOM PACK

1. Vocabulary exercises
2. Multiple choice exercises
3. Written expression
4. Oral expression
5. Cultural
6. Intertextual



Vocabulary exercises

A. Complete the lines from the play with the appropriate word:

mind stick hospitality
fancy count sucker

1. I don't want to _____ my chickens.
2. _____ running into you.
3. We can't _____ around here.
4. You're the new tea boy aren't you? The new _____.
5. _____ your own business. It would be better for everyone.
6. I don't want to abuse your _____. I'll leave early tomorrow morning?

B. Unscramble the letters to find the word corresponding to the definition

1. An advocate for a cause.
2. Someone who deceives another.
3. A senseless pursuit of something unattainable.
4. The advocacy for the protection of natural resources.
5. In disarray.
6. An ignorant, silly or foolish person.

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NOTPIMLES

Then copy the letters in the numbered cells to other cells with the same number and discover what Maxine means when she describes: "This underwater cable is madness, ecologically speaking. We can't let it be built."

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Multiple Choice

Description

You have now discovered the plot of the play "Crossroads" and its different protagonists. Let's see what you can remember.

Task

Read the sentences and mark the correct answer.

1. Mel's grandmother has ...

1. Dementia
2. Alzheimer
3. A bad back

2. Sinead's real name is ...

1. Lucy
2. Maxine
3. Skye

3. Sinead moves from where to Dublin?

1. Cork
2. London
3. Belfast

4. Mel has an interview for what job?

1. Working in a retirement home.
2. As a barista.
3. Programming job.

5. Sinead and Mel meet because ...

1. Mel drops his interview invitation and runs into Sinead.
2. they are both drinking coffee in the pub.
3. Sinead thinks Mel is cute and gives him her cell phone number.

6. Why is Mel's mum super stressed?

1. Mel crashed her car and now she has to walk to work.
2. Mel got the days of his interview wrong and there is no one to look after his grandmother.
3. There are too many people living in her house.

7. Where do Sinead and Mel go with his grandmother?

1. The pub.
2. The old folks home.
3. The park.

8. Mel becomes tied up because ...

1. Maxine ties him up to get to Sinead.
2. he thinks it's a fun thing to do.
3. Sinead ties him up because he is going to tell the police on her.

9. What do Bow and Maxine want from Sinead?

1. To have a friendly chat.
2. A computer.
3. Some passwords.

10. Maxine ...

1. is an extreme activist for an environmental group.
2. betrays an environmental activist group for money.
3. forgot her computer password.



Written Expression

Task

Choose an issue from the list below, or pick your own (run it past your teacher first).

- **Deforestation**
- **Overfishing**
- **Fast fashion**
- **Farming**
- **Rising sea levels**
- **Water pollution**
- **Fossil fuels**
- **Endangered species**
- **Ozone layer**
- **Recycling and waste management**
- **Drought**

Do some research: Use the table to help format your ideas. You can use some of the links provided in the "Cultural" part to help you with your research.

Write a newspaper article or a report using the research you have done as a starting point.

1. What is the issue?
2. What are some of the main causes of this issue?
3. When did the issue start becoming a problem?
4. Why is it an issue? Who or what is impacted?
5. How can we help? On a small scale on a large scale?

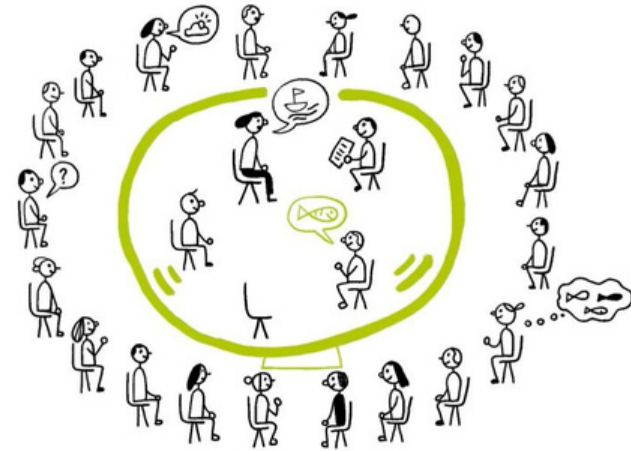


Oral Expression

Fishbowl Exercise

Read the statements below. Do you agree or disagree with them?

Why? Why not? Write a few sentences/prepare your answer to share in a group discussion.



1. There is no such thing as free will. Everything is fated to happen.
2. Individuals should be more responsible for their environmental footprint.
3. Corporations should be held accountable for their environmental impact. If so, how?
4. "We must change almost everything in our current societies. The bigger your carbon footprint – the bigger your moral duty. The bigger your platform – the bigger your responsibility." – Greta Thunberg. To what extent do you agree/disagree with Greta?
5. Extreme activism is okay if it is for the right cause.
6. Love and addiction are nearly the same thing.
7. If we accept that free will does not exist, then we are not responsible for our actions.
8. It's the younger generation's responsibility to look after the older generation.
9. Activism has little to no impact on the outcome.
10. Stealing is sometimes okay.
11. If something happens by accident, it's not your responsibility to fix it.



Cultural

Description

Sinead/Skye in Crossroads will go to extreme lengths to protect our planet and her friends. Environmental organisations are renowned for their protesting and vision for a greener, more eco-friendly world.

In Crossroads, an environmental activist group is protesting the Celtic Interconnector – a cable channelling energy between France and Ireland. Many organisations similarly have protested many environmental issues facing the planet.

Sustainability and the environmental impacts of human beings on the planet are, arguably, one of the most important issues facing humanity. How we address these issues and make changes will impact the future of the planet for generations to come.



Task

Are we doomed, fated, to a planet beyond reversal? Or are there steps we can take to better our home? Read the synopsis/watch the videos of some issues facing our planet below. Make some notes if necessary. There are extra links and information attached for more indepth research. You can find definitions for the green terms in the vocabulary table.

Be prepared to answer your teachers' questions!



Cultural

DEFORESTATION

Forests are home to some of the most diverse **ecosystems and wildlife** on the planet; our cute orangutans, Sumatran tigers, and countless numbers of birds! Forests are home to 80% of all plants and wildlife. And it's no wonder, they cover around 30% of **the world's land mass**, however, this statistic is changing by the day. Since 1990, the world has lost over 420 million hectares of forest. Around 48 football fields every minute!

Deforestation is a huge issue; it is the process of removing forest, wooden landscapes. This occurs for a number of reasons. Some of the **major driving force** behind deforestation is the need for **farming pastures** in order to support **livestock**, cows and sheep, and provide grazing areas (places for them to eat), in particular in the Amazon; **soy plantations** are also known for being a **key offender** at the root of deforestation.

Mining and drilling, combined, are the **culprit** for over half of all deforestation. **Wildfires** and **urbanisation** account for a small proportion, although still significant. **Logging** and the paper industry, sometimes working illegally, build roads to access more **remote forests**, again, leading to further deforestation and destruction.



In countries such as Malaysia and Indonesia, trees are cut down for **palm oil** – a valuable resource found in most household products – from shampoo to chocolate. Inevitably, western demand for **luxury products**, such as our tasty chocolate, has an impact on the **financial and economic drive** to produce these goods and in turn, contributes to deforestation.

Why do we need trees? The world **endeavours** to slow down the process of climate change, **preserve wildlife** and support billions of people – and trees hold a key role in this pursuit. Not only do trees provide a habitat for our rich and unique ecosystems, wildlife and **biodiversity**, they help **absorb carbon dioxide**, which humans breathe, while also **reversing the process of greenhouse gases**. Not only that, but trees help with **soil retention** – providing key nutrients for the soil, retaining water, blocking the harsh sun during the day and retaining heat at night. Forests, in particular the Amazon rainforest, are essential for **weather patterns**, both locally and globally.



Cultural

DEFORESTATION

But what can we do? While the statistics seem grim, scientists haven't given up all hope. There are many movements to **preserve existing forests** as well as the push to plant new ones and restore lost tree cover. In countries such as Tanzania over 2 million trees have been planted on a tiny island off the coast in order to help **restore damage**. For us? We can be more aware of the products we are **buying and consuming**. In particular where our meat is coming from and reducing our consumption of soy and palm oil. With a combined effort we can reduce and reverse the effects of deforestation.



Deforestation explained
National Geographic

<https://www.nationalgeographic.com/environment/article/deforestation>



The Tragedy Of Deforestation
Climate Change: The Facts
BBC Earth

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=B5Fwl4P4EW8>



Causes of deforestation
Nasa - Earth Observatory

https://earthobservatory.nasa.gov/features/Deforestation/deforestation_update3.php



How to green the world's deserts
and reverse climate change
Allan Savory

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vpTHi7O66pl>



Cultural OVERFISHING

Humankind has been fishing and eating fish for as long as we can remember. Whether it's a biblical story or oysters at Christmas, fish has become a **staple** in many people's diet and culture. However, this love of the salty creatures that **inhabit** our seas has come at a **fishy cost**; overfishing.

Overfishing is the process of catching fish at a rate faster than **stocks** can **replenish**. It is an issue happening globally. Large **vessels, commercial fisheries**, use advanced technology, such as sonar, radar and helicopters, in order to locate **schools of fish**. Almost like a warship! Long lines with hundreds of hooks and large nets are employed to **haul in mass groups of fish**. However, the intended fish are not the only creatures caught. Dolphins, turtles, rare sharks are just some of the **victims** of this **industrial approach** to fishing, not only the vulnerable populations of fish being caught.

This increase in technology has allowed us to fish at a greater rate and greater depths than ever before. Fish that were previously not targeted have become "**a delicacy**" such as Chilean sea bass - a type of cod. These species produce at a slower rate, only once they reach **maturity** at the age of ten years old will they reproduce, and therefore can not maintain the speed in which they are fished. **Consumer demand** is directly affecting the rate in which this vulnerable species is being fished. Wild fish **breeding levels** cannot sustain the speed in which 7 billion people are eating them.



What's more, according to the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations, over one third of the world's fisheries are being pushed beyond their **biological limit**; they are being fished beyond what is sustainable. A further 58% are being fished to "the max". The tuna population has decreased by half since 1950, with the southern Atlantic **on the verge of extinction!**

Overfishing is also directly linked to a term called **bycatch** - the capture of unwanted sea life while fishing for different species. This has **detrimental effects on marine life** and the excessive loss of billions of fish, unnecessarily; while also affecting the most vulnerable species. The giant nets used, the size of football fields, harm **delicate ecosystems** and **habitats** as they scrape along the ocean floor. In the pursuit of wild shrimp, which make up 5% of "the catch", 95% of the bycatch are dropped back into the ocean, dead.

Cultural OVERFISHING

So how do we protect these **at-risk species** and habitats?

Governments play a key role in determining how many fish can be caught, when and where; **increased restriction** on equipment and certain boats; certain practices, like **bottom trolling** – the scraping of nets along sea floors, can be **banned altogether**. **Marine reserves** can play a key role in **sustaining fish populations** – areas of sea where fishing is banned. This act would allow **ecosystems to regenerate** and **biodiversity to flourish**.

As a consumer, we can **boycott** certain companies whose practices are harmful, while pushing fishing companies into more sustainable practices. With these actions, we have already seen the **regeneration** of some at-risk species. With a further push, more effort and increased restrictions we can maybe see these precious **ecosystems thriving** once again.



Will the ocean ever run out of fish?
A. Johnson & J. Jacquet

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WNdR808jMSA>



Will the ocean ever run out of fish?
A. Johnson & J. Jacquet

<https://www.worldwildlife.org/threats/overfishing>



Global response to overfishing
Geneva Environment Network

<https://www.genevaenvironmentnetwork.org/resources/updates/overfishing/>



Cultural

FAST FASHION

We live in a glistening, shiny world of “what next”? Always trying to keep up with the **latest trend**, the latest fashion. But at what cost do our latest desires come at?

Clothing brands and retailers such as H&M, Zara, UniQLO, Forever 21 are notorious for **mass producing** up to date fashion – **knock-off garments** replicating the fresh looks right off the runway; following celebrities and producing clothing at an **unprecedented pace**.

Fast fashion is fast in every sense. Quick off the runway, quickly **manufactured**, quickly **distributed**, quickly **advertised**, but also just as quickly thrown away. 85% of all **textiles** end up in rubbish dumps every year. What’s more, the fashion industry is the second-biggest consumer of water, according to the UN Environmental Programme, and it is responsible for 10% of all **global emissions** – equal to that of the European Union.

Over 500,000 tons of **microplastics** are released into the ocean each year from just washing clothes – that equates to 50 billion plastic water bottles!

Not only are these textiles being thrown away, they are also not **disintegrating**. Many garments are now manufactured using **synthetic materials** – plastics created from **fossil fuels**, that will not break down naturally or decay.

Not only does it have an **environmental impact**, in regards to the materials and the shipping cost on the planet, but the fashion industry has significant **social impacts**. Many of our beloved clothing is produced in **third world** and **developing countries** such as Bangladesh, India, South America, China, Vietnam. Scandals of **childlabour**, **slave wage**, inhumane working conditions are swept under the rug, and rudely ignored in the face of our shiny new shoes.



Cultural

FAST FASHION

So, what can we do to combat fast fashion? We want to be fashionable, up to date, on point, trending... Well, we can switch our speed, drop down a few gears, into a term called '**slow fashion**'; a movement towards buying secondhand clothes, mending and reusing rather than gobbling up the latest trend. We can also wash our clothes less, reducing the microplastics that are released into our waterways and we can try to buy clothing that uses more **environmentally friendly** fibres like cotton.

Alternatively, we can try to support local businesses, repair or reuse old clothing as clothes or bags and ask ourselves... Do I really need another T-shirt?



Fast Fashion and its Environmental impact
Earth.org

<https://earth.org/fast-fashions-detrimental-effect-on-the-environment/>



The ugly truth of Fast Fashion
Patriot Act with Hasan Minhaj

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xGF3ObOBbac>



How fast Fashion is destroying the planet
The New York Times

<https://www.nytimes.com/2019/09/03/books/review/how-fast-fashion-is-destroying-the-planet.html>



The life cycle of a t-shirt
Angel Chang

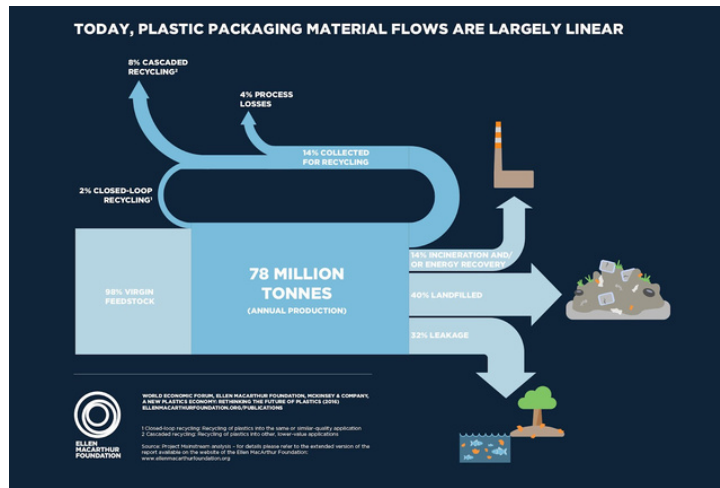
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BiSYoeqb_VY



Cultural

RECYCLING AND WASTE MANAGEMENT

CIRCULAR ECONOMY



How our trash impacts the environment
Earthday.org

<https://www.earthday.org/how-our-trash-impacts-the-environment/>



Explaining the Circular Economy
Ellen MacArthur Foundation

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zCRKvDyyHmI>



The linear plastic system
Ellen MacArthur Foundation

<https://archive.ellenmacarthurfoundation.org/explore/plastics-and-the-circular-economy#:~:text=Recycling%20of%20plastics%20is%20one,the%20consumption%20of%20finite%20resources>



The vision for a Circular Economy for plastic
Ellen MacArthur Foundation

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xmTQA-RNygQ>



How recycling is killing the planet
Politico

<https://www.politico.eu/article/recycling-killing-the-planet/>

Cultural QUIZ

Thanks to this quiz your students will learn a lot about the environment!

DEFORESTATION

1. What percentage of the world's landmass is covered in forests?
2. Since 1990 how many hectares of forest has been lost?
3. Name three causes of deforestation
4. Who is affected by deforestation?
5. What percentage of the world's wildlife and plants live in forests?

OVERFISHING

1. Give a definition for overfishing
2. What fraction of the world's fisheries are being pushed beyond their biological limit?
3. What is by-catch?
4. What is the percentage of shrimp usually caught in large nets?
5. What are two ways we can help sustain fish populations?

FAST FASHION

1. What percentage of all textiles end up in the rubbish tip each year?
2. How many tons of microplastics are released into the waterways each year?
3. Name three of your own (not named in the article) fast fashion companies.
4. What does 'fast fashion' mean?
5. Name three ways we can help slow 'fast fashion'.

WASTE MANAGEMENT / CIRCULAR ECONOMY

1. What are the three steps in a linear approach to economy?
2. What's one way we can start creating a circular economy
3. Circular economy requires not just one company but...
4. Circular economy is modelled on?
5. What is one of the outcomes of a linear approach to economy?



Intertextual

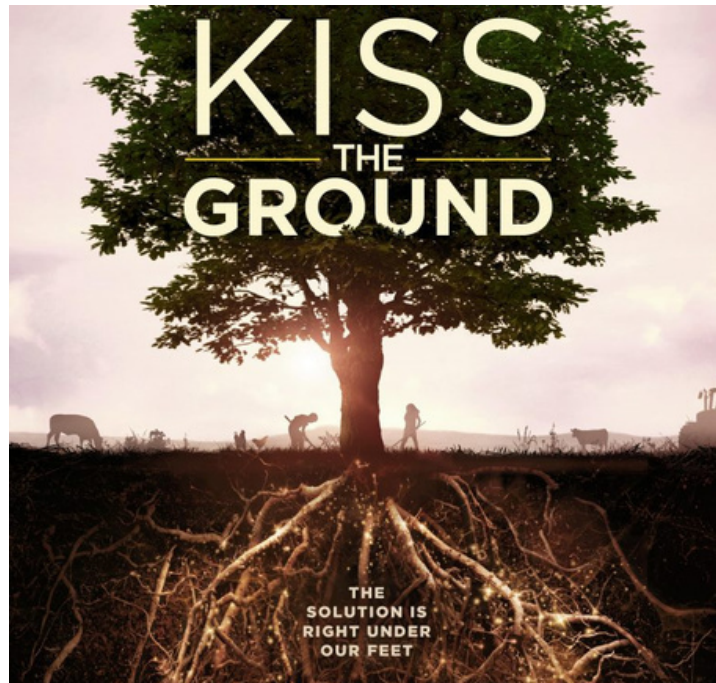
Environmentalism, free will and fate all play a large role in Crossroads, for both Sinead and Mel. The novels, films, documentaries and graphic novels below all explore these themes; how do our decisions impact the future of tomorrow?

What future do we hope to wake up to?

How can we make changes now so we don't wake up to a world foreshadowed in Attwood's Maddaddam Trilogy?

KISS THE GROUND - Josh Tickell & Rebecca Harrell Tickell

Kiss the Ground (2020) is a documentary, narrated by Woody Harrelson, that explores the positive impacts of regenerative agriculture and its power to reverse climate change. Activists, scientists, farmers, and politicians come together in this documentary to discuss and prove that the solution to climate change and environmental impacts is right under our feet; the ground. Through regenerative agriculture, regenerating the Earth's soils, in effect we can replenish water supplies, improve food production globally, sustain vulnerable wildlife and balance the climate. An uplifting and empowering documentary that looks at the steps we can take to combat climate change and prepare for a more sustainable future.

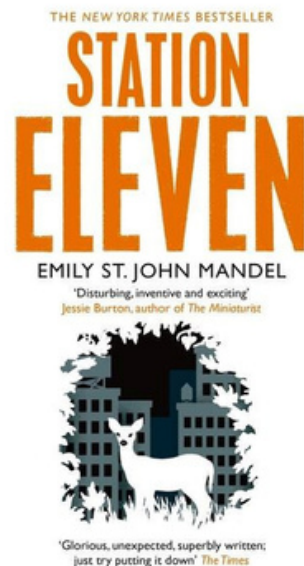
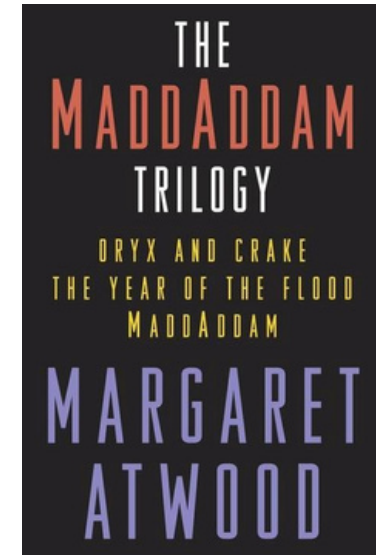


CLASSROOM PACK

Intertextual

MADDADDAM TRILOGY - Margaret Atwood

Margaret Atwood's trilogy; *Oryx and Crake*, *The Year of the Flood*, and *Maddaddam*, portrays a future that is not too far out of our imagination; a future shaped by plagues, floods and genetic engineering. Atwood depicts a future that's not so distant from our own. She critiques a world in which powerful corporations take mankind on an unbridled genetic engineering ride in her first novel of the series *Oryx and Crake*. The second novel, *The Year of the Flood*, illustrates an awaited waterless flood which obliterates the majority of human life. In the finale of the series, *Maddaddam* depicts a bioengineered quasi-human species, the Children of Crake, banding together to inherit a new post-apocalyptic world. Atwood's novels offer a dark critique and a warning for a potentially disastrous environmental future.



STATION ELEVEN - Emily St. John Mandel

Station Eleven (2015), a post-apocalyptic novel (and adapted series) by Emily St. John Mandel depicts a world post a crippling swine flu that wipes out the majority of the population. The novel follows various storylines; during the outbreak of the pandemic, post-pandemic and a fictional comic narrative – *Station Eleven*. Mandel illustrates the importance of art, how it binds communities together through various examples though primarily through a travelling symphony, post virus, that performs Shakespearean plays. Mandel suggests that art ultimately gives life meaning “because survival is insufficient”. She also goes on to critique the role of faith and fate in this post-apocalyptic world. Faith, similarly to art, creates community, gives reason for survival, however, removes the individual's responsibility and role in creating a new civilisation. Mandel prompts readers to consider their role in creating a better future – whether we have blind faith that everything will work out and things are fated to happen or whether we take matters into our own hands.

CLASSROOM PACK

Intertextual

THE WALKING DEAD - Robert Kirkman & Tony Moore

The Walking Dead (graphic novel) by writer Robert Kirkman and artist Tony Moore explores the lasting impacts of human decisions and neglect on a future post apocalyptic world. In a world wrought with zombies and the collapse of civilisation, the graphic novel deals with ecological themes. Kirkman and Moore's depiction of a barren landscape and re-establishment of a civilisation holds a warning to society of the environmental impacts if we do not nurture and sustain that which we hold dear now.



DON'T LOOK UP! - Adam McKay

'Don't Look Up' (2021) written and directed by Adam McKay is described as an apocalyptic political satire black comedy film that follows two low-level astronomers: Kate Dibiasky (Jennifer Lawrence) a PhD candidate and her professor Dr Randall Mindy (Leonardo DiCaprio) and their pursuit to inform the world of an incoming comet and its detrimental impacts on the planet. Kate discovers an unknown comet that will collide with Earth in approximately 6 months' time, causing mass destruction and probable extinction. The pair attempt to warn the president of the United States (Meryl Streep), but are met with ambivalence and nonchalance. The satire looks at the implications of world-threatening issues and how these are handled by the media, politicians and the public. McKay uses a satirical lens to critique how pressing issues, such as climate change are dealt with. The film strikes a chord close to home as it presses the viewer to consider how we as a society can "stick our heads in the sand", pretending that the pressing problem isn't happening.

CLASSROOM PACK