ACTIVITY SUMMARY:
Respond to a character’s dilemma, giving reasons for advice. Writing a note of advice.

INGREDIENTS:
Reading book
Note paper
(dramaresource.com/strategies/conscience-alley)

METHOD:
1. Read a passage from the chosen text where a key character has to make a choice or an important decision.
2. Discuss what is happening in the text with the children and what they think about the character’s dilemma.
3. Ask the children what they think the character should do. Can they explain why they think this?
   Ask children to form two vertical lines, facing each other, with space to walk between – this is a ‘conscience alley’.
4. Pick one child to walk down the alley, thinking as the character. Either side of the conscience alley, individual children give their reasons why the character should or should not make a choice about their action or decision with the child in character listening to their reasoning.
5. Discuss which arguments were most convincing and why.
6. Can the child in character say what they think they would do after listening to the opinions of the others?
7. This could lead to the children writing a persuasive note to the character giving advice on what they should do and why.

TIME:
40 minutes

EYFS / NATIONAL CURRICULUM 2014:
- EYFS: Children represent their own ideas, thoughts and feelings through design and technology, art, music, dance, role-play and stories.
- KS1 and KS2: Identifying the audience for and purpose of the writing, selecting the appropriate form and using other similar writing as models for their own.

SUGGESTED RESOURCES:
- EYFS
  - The Storm Whale by Benji Davies (Simon and Schuster)
  - Oh No George! by Chris Haughton (Walker)
- YEAR 1/2
  - The Dark by Lemony Snicket and Jon Klassen (Orchard)
  - Frog and the Stranger by Max Velthuijs (Andersen)
- YEAR 3/4
  - Ice Palace by Robert Swindells (Puffin)
  - Mouse Bird Snake Wolf by David Almond & Dave McKean (Walker)
- YEAR 5/6
  - Cosmic by Frank Cottrell Boyce (Macmillan)
  - The Day I Swapped my Dad for Two Goldfish by Neil Gaiman & Dave McKean (Bloomsbury)

CASE STUDY
1. Reception children wrote notes of advice to the farm animals in What the Ladybird Heard, telling them what they thought they should do when they found out that the robbers were coming to steal the cow.
2. Year 5 children created a conscience alley around Cosmic by Frank Cottrell Boyce to give Liam advice on whether or not he should lie about his age to get to space.