

Task for *A Bridge to Wiseman's Cove*

Point of View and Perspective

James Moloney has said that, 'I like to get inside the head of today's adolescents, to connect with the passion they have for life and understand what they care about. The challenge then is to express it in a story.'

- Discuss with students whether they think that Moloney has been successful in meeting this challenge.
 - What issues do the various teenage characters in *A Bridge to Wiseman's Cove* seem to be passionate about? Do these issues connect to the themes of the novel that students identified earlier?
 - Does Moloney help readers understand what his adolescent characters care about?
 - Do these issues and concerns also resonate with your students?
 - Is it obvious what point of view Moloney wants readers to adopt in response to events in the novel?
- As a whole class explore Moloney's representation of Carl.
 - Look for physical descriptions, e.g. Aunt Beryl's description of Carl on p. 46.
 - Find examples of what he does and what this might tell readers about him, e.g. '...he picked up the barely conscious girl, one arm under her shoulders, the other under her knees.' (p. 41)
 - Find examples of what he says.
 - Look for expressions of what Carl thinks and feels.
 - Is it obvious that readers are being positioned to read Carl in a positive and sympathetic way? That is, to accept the assumed author's point of view?
- Allocate different characters from the novel to small groups of students. Ask them to explore these characters in the same way that they have just explored the representation of Carl. To what extent, if any, has Moloney gone beyond what these characters say and do to describe their thoughts and feelings?
- Are readers encouraged by the author to adopt certain attitudes to different characters so that they accept the attitudes, values and beliefs promoted by the author's point of view? For example, what point of view are readers encouraged to take towards, say, Bruce or Nathan Trelfo and how does this reinforce the positive representation of other characters like the Duncans and Justine?