

INTRODUCTION

The original stimulus was a newspaper article, entitled 'Swapped at Birth'. It explains the situation of two families who had their children swapped at birth. At the age of 10, one of the girls, Arlena, died from heart related issues. Following tests proved she was not the Twiggs' daughter and Ernest and Regina Twigg began to investigate. When they discovered Kimberly, they asked to share memorabilia from the two children. Robert Mays only agreed to this when, after two months, the Twiggs threatened to fight for custody. After swapping memorabilia, the Twiggs gained visitation rights over Kimberly. 5 visits took place before Robert Mays stopped them and Kimberly cut all ties with the family. However, 2 months later, Kimberly wanted to cut all ties with Robert and move in with her biological family. She succeeded and left Robert forever.

There were many parts of the stimulus that fascinated me. One example would be how quickly Kimberly changed her mind about being around the Twiggs. Another aspect that fascinated me was that Kimberly had left her home with Robert to stay in the YMCA hospice before moving to the Twiggs home. The further research that I did also fascinated me in the fact that the Twiggs only gained visitation rights after threatening Robert that they would fight for custody. Also, the fact that even though Barbra Mays had said the baby she took home looked darker than the one just taken away from her there was still the massive mix up.

My ideas board shows the similarities and differences between the two families. The emotions in each family are very different as both go through completely different things even though they started out in the same way. My ideas board also brings out the contrast in the two family lives: an only child raised by her 'father' and 2 mothers and 7 children raised by mother and father. The main themes that really stood out when I was researching were regret, loneliness and internal anger. These are the themes I will try and incorporate into my script.

The storyline I am going to develop is Robert Mays reminiscing about the past as Kimberly is destroying everything she has to remind her of him. I will be focusing mainly on Robert and Ernest and Regina Twigg but through their 7 children. Robert interests me as he has spent his whole life dealing with loss and I want to explore that more. He is also left completely alone when Kimberly leaves and I want to show the audience how he'll cope and deal with it. With the Twigg children, I want to explore how Ernest and Regina would have dealt with the change around their children. I also want to look at how the change to the parent's lifestyle have and will affect their children.

I will be using a naturalistic style with elements of non-naturalistic theatre entwined. I will be using some non-naturalistic elements as I think it will emphasise the emotions of the characters in the best possible way. I will be using gritty realism as my genre as I think it will portray the feelings of my characters in the best way. I am considering working with flashbacks and overheard conversations within my piece. I might also use some still image so I can bring the characters out of the piece to expand on their feelings at the time.

Intentions:

- To portray the feelings of Regina and Ernest Twigg through their children
- To show conflicting views by using purely actions
- To show that Robert is not going to cope completely by himself

INITIAL IDEAS

- Begin with meeting between the lawyers, parents and Kimberly
- Potentially use lawyers conscience weighing up their options
- Hammer down, decision made for Kimberly to live with Twiggs
- Fade lights down
- Spot on Robert, Kimberly centre stage packing up from YMCA shelter in silence
- For Robert, Kimberly is the only reminder of his dead wife he has left
- Even though they are not related, everything they have together are memories, being taken away, Kimberly might not cope with change of lifestyle and 7 brothers and sisters, all contact lost
- Kimberly's flashback – looking at photos whilst packing up, sad, photos at bottom of bag, wants to forget everything
- After Robert flashbacks to court case, quotes from case, end with hammer, turns out to be nightmare of Kimberly's, sits on bed and cries
- Repeat of hammer shows harsh repetition and situations of life – court case, losing family
- Twiggs – sat in café, talking, really excited about Kimberly moving in. Freeze, conscience talking questioning decisions, best thing to do? Think of the fun! Ruined Mays' life
- Potentially all a dream, atmosphere change, Kimberly gets quieter and quieter as reality becomes more focused, dolls/imaginary friends enough
- Fears of Twiggs through 7 children?

Synopsis

The day after trial, Robert at home in Kimberly's room, Kimberly in YMCA hospice, Robert working out what went wrong and why Kimberly has cut all ties with him, Kimberly looking back through memorabilia, disposing of everything that reminds her of Robert. Kimberly meets new family, 7 children portray feelings of parents.

Characters

Robert Mays
Kimberly Mays
Irisa Twigg
Other 6 Twigg children

Breakdown of scenes

Section 1: Single spot stage left on Robert, looking through the remaining items left in Kimberly's room, talking about 1st birthday. Flashback to 1st birthday.

Section 2: 1st birthday, centre stage, Barbra and younger Robert fussing over baby Kimberly, giving presents ← *just voices, nothing else.*

Section 3: back to single spot stage left on Robert, but stage right spot on 15 year old Kimberly packing up her things from YMCA hospice. Robert begins to remember downfall of Barbra's health, how Kimberly coped just before and after death. Didn't really understand, just kept asking for her mum.

Section 4: flashback to first contact with Twigg's, discovery of child mix up, trying to hide it from Kimberly but she overheard conversation, asks to meet Twigg's, Robert tries to prevent it, happens anyway.

Section 5: All happened too quickly, final trial was over, all contact cut, Robert stressing about how Kimberly's grown up in a 'bubble', won't cope with 7 other siblings, only thing he had to remind him of Barbara and now he's all alone, no one to look after him.

Section 6: Kimberly finishes to pack her bag and walks out of hospice, passing a bin, discards of bag, wants no more connections with Robert Mays

Section 7: 7 Twigg children gathered, waiting for Kimberly to arrive. All expressing the worries of the parents that they weren't supposed to know about but do, Kimberly arrives, all goes silent. Kimberly introduces herself.

didn't want K as family but R refused visits so demanded custody.

CHARACTER DEVELOPMENT

Character List

Robert Mays – Man who raised Kimberly, no one to look after him now Kimberly has left, lack of self-confidence, shy.

Kimberly Mays – had a very disrupted childhood, has a lot of internal anger, only child, raised by Robert, shy.

Irisa Twigg – oldest of the Twigg children, 21, very close to all of her siblings, acts as the peacekeeper when Ernest and Regina aren't around, lives away from home but comes back most holidays and special occasions

Alice Twigg – Jasmine's twin, 10, youngest of the Twigg children by 5 minutes, innocent, doesn't like to be the only one not to know things because she is the youngest

Jasmine Twigg – Alice's twin, 10, doesn't let it go that she is the older out of the two, always tries to prove her wrong, stubborn

Charlie Twigg – 12, easily annoyed, especially by Harry, usually very quiet but around siblings has a lot of confidence, very good relationship with Irisa and Rupert

Rupert Twigg – 16, calm and relaxed all of the time, nothing gets to him, also a sort of peacekeeper within the group, calming influence on Charlie leading to a very good relationship with him

Harry Twigg – joker in the group, class clown, thinks he is liked by everyone but truthfully, he irritates everyone to some extent, middle child, tries to act older than he is only 14, feels he has to misbehave to get attention

Jack Twigg – 19, shyest in the family, but still loud, has to be to get point across, presumes things, doesn't wait for the truth, moved out to go to college but, like Irisa, comes back most holidays and special occasions

Character Background

Kimberly Mays

- 15 years old, lived with Robert all her life
- Started seeing the Twigg's but cut all ties with them, 'I want their parental rights terminated. I want them out of my life and my life back.'
- During trial said 'I really feel like I'm being spun around. I'm a kid and I feel like I'm being treated like dirt.'
- Ran away to YMCA shelter, needed space
- Phoned Regina Twigg after supposedly cutting ties with the family telling her 'Mom, I love you and I want to come home'.

Robert Mays

- Married Barbara, who had Kimberly in 1978
- Barbara died in 1980
- Married again to Darlena, separated after 6 years.
- Suspended visitation rights of the Twigg's after 5 visits when he decided they were upsetting Kimberly
- When Kimberly left for good, he was all alone, noone to look after him
- Kimberly was the only thing that he had reminding him of Barbara

Ernest/Regina Twigg

- 7 other children
- Arlena died at 10, following medical tests confirmed she was not a Twigg
- Once discovered, investigated further, tried to find own child
- Moved closer to the Mays' so they could see more of Kimberly
- Gained visitation rights in October 1989 which then were lost after 5 visits
- Asked a court to force Robert to give them permanent visitation rights but Kimberly wanted to sever all ties with the Twigg's
- Gained full custody of Kimberly after she ran away to YMCA hospice.

SCENE DEVELOPMENT

Script improvement

Throughout the 10 hours, I was always changing and adapting my script. As you can see, I printed out drafts of the script and then improved them. The final results of this can be seen in my final script.

Reasoning for changes:

1. I made Robert fiddle with the buttons on his shirt to show how insecure and awkward he was feeling.
2. I made Kimberly clench her teeth to show how much anger has been building up throughout the whole process.
3. I made Kimberly cut through the photos with each word to show how angry she is about a certain point and destroying things is the only way she can deal with it.
4. I made Kimberly throw all of the things she had cut up in the bin so it was obvious to the audience that she didn't want to remember anything about Robert.
5. I made Alice stick her tongue out to show how young she is and to also show how easily annoyed she gets by her siblings.

Structure	Brief Note of Content
Section 1	Roberts 1st monologue, Robert gives feelings on Kimberly going to live with the Twiggs, how upset Barbara would be if she was still alive
Section 2	1st flashback, Kimberly's 1st birthday, parents promising to look after her
Section 3	Roberts second monologue, guilty, disappointed in himself, worrying about how being in a big family will affect her
Section 4	Kimberly's 1st monologue, angry at how Robert thinks it's because of him that she's leaving, wants to be in a real family
Section 5	Robert's 3rd monologue, regretting not doing things differently
Section 6	2nd flashback, just after Darlens's death, shows ways of coping/grieving
Section 7	Robert's 4th monologue, disbelief in himself, wanting to go back and change things
Section 8	Kimberly's 2nd monologue, proving she knows Robert lied to her
Section 9	3rd flashback, discovery of results, Robert covering up the truth
Section 10	Robert's 5th monologue, accepting that lying was wrong can't believe that he would ever do something like that to someone
Section 11	Kimberly's 3rd monologue, anger towards Roberts assumptions
Section 12	4th flashback, after the case, Robert comforting Kimberly
Section 13	Kimberly's 4th monologue, final words about Robert before she lets go, gets rid of all memories
Section 14	Meeting the Twiggs who are preparing to meet her, general family banter, don't hear Kimberly enter as they are talking about her, embarrassment when they discover she heard them

Music: River Flows In You – Yiruma, fades down, background music when Robert is talking but the only sound during the opening section:

Stage right, spot comes up on Kimberly in YMCA hospice. Surrounding her are photos, birthday cards and various other memories from her childhood. There is also a black bin bag and a pair of scissors close to her. One by one, she cuts and shreds the photos and birthday cards and throws them away into the black bin bag. As she is doing this, stage left, a spot comes up on Robert Mays who is looking through memorabilia (baby clothes, drawings, photos) that he has of Kimberly. However, instead of shredding them, he is folding them and putting them away, holding onto the memories.

Shrug shoulders, sad laugh.

Robert: I don't understand where it all went so wrong. I thought, when I stopped the visits, everything would go back to normal. During those visits, Kim wasn't herself. At all. She became even more detached and even more reserved than she was before. And then she just broke down! She told me she wanted her life back. The way it was before the Twiggs got involved. But something changed. In these last five months the situations have been switched. I can't believe she's cut all ties with me. She's left me with nobody, literally. Those Twiggs already have 7 children and they're taking Kim away from me. I feel like I've let Barbara down completely. She made Kim so happy. Her first birthday was one of the happiest days of my life. (hugs baby clothes, birthday card)

everything freezes, just voices, slight echo, baby laughing, a chorus of happy birthday begins nappily but madly
Robert: Happy birthday Kimberly!

(together)

Barbara: Happy birthday Kim!

Robert: She's grown up so quickly, look at her hair!

Barbara: I know, she makes me so happy

Robert: And me, I promise for as long as we live, we will always look after you Kim. (You're our special girl.)

'always look after you Kim' repeats and fades out
River Flows in You begins again.

Robert: I promised. And I've broken that promise. I've sent her to another part of the country with a family she barely even knows to live with. To a complete family. To a family that has been together for all these years. She's been an only child for her whole life. I don't know if she's going to be able to cope. She'll have to share things. She'll have to do things as a group. We struggled to get her out of the house! I just don't know how she's going to cope having to be part of an already tight knit family. She's just not the sociable type. At all.

begins to go through items on floor.

Add why Kimberly wants to leave Robert.

barely looks up, always looking at floor/walls

pause

smiling to self remembering

angry with self

shrugs shoulders, fiddling with buttons on outfit

fiddling with buttons on outfit

looks up to audience, laughs.

1

some point, lights up centre stage, wiggs sat in garden, B skipping others playing cards together.

Robert: (over River Flows In You) I promised. (angry with himself) And I've broken that promise. I've sent her to another part of the country with a family she barely even knows to live with. To a complete family. To a family that has been together for all these years. (fiddles with the baby outfit) She's been an only child for her whole life. (shrugs shoulders, fighting back tears) I don't know if she's going to be able to cope. She'll have to share things. She'll have to do things as a group. (looks up to audience, laughs) We struggled to get her out of the house! (pauses, feels guilty about laughing) I just don't know how she's going to cope having to be part of an ~~already tight knit~~ ^{and zundly close} family. She's just not the sociable type. At all. (begins to go through the items on the floor in detail)

River Flows in You fades back up as both go through items. Stage right, Kimberly is cutting and shredding her memories and stage left, Robert is carefully putting things away.

Kimberly: He thinks I'm leaving because of him. I hate how he always presumes that everything is always to do with him. Most of the time it never is. But it's not because of him. Look at all of these photos. Every single one of them is a lie. I don't want to have to carry on living a lie as if nothing's wrong with it. All my life I've been told not to lie. If I stayed with Robert then that's exactly what I would be doing. Lying. I can't just sit here doing nothing with my life when I have a whole different life to discover with my real family. People keep asking me what I mean by real family. They say that surely Robert's my 'real family'. We've never been a family. He had Barbara. She died. He had Darlena. She left. He's had so many others inbetween that I can't even remember their names. We've never been a stable family. That's all I've ever wanted: a stable life. If I stay here, I'm not going to get it. I mean, look at all of these photos. They're all lies. Just another reminder that my whole life has been a complete and utter lie. And I can't cope with that. I need to be living the truth. In the real world. In a real family. Why can't anybody accept that?!

Robert: Looking back through all of this (just keeps bringing everything back. When Barbara was ill, Kim was just like she is now: withdrawn, distant, reserved. The amount of time she spent, wanting to be with her mum was ridiculous. When she finally died, I didn't know what to say to her. All Kim wanted was her mom. She kept asking for her, over and over again. I couldn't tell her what had really happened. I kept telling her she'd had to go on holiday to get better. She was only 2. What are you supposed to say? How do you cope with a child who has just lost her mother?

Freeze, echoing recording, over River Flows in You, just voices

Kimberly: Daddy, where's my mommy?

Robert: Ermmm, she should be home soon darling.

Kimberly: But daddy, where is she?

Pause
angry laugh
angry

shows audience all photos angrily

shows them on floor

2
drenching
with anger
building up

gestures to
emphasise
it all
begins to
cry

fighting
back tears

gestures to items around him

pause

pause

avoiding question

begins to sob

Robert: Don't worry. She's just gone away for a little while. She'll be back before you know it.

'back before you know it' echoes + fades, RFLY fade
back up read in hands. shrug shoulders.

Robert: I can't believe I lied to her. I should've just told her. But she was 2. I had no idea how she would cope with it all. Sometimes... Sometimes I just wish I could turn back the clock and make sure we had the right baby. I suppose it wouldn't make any difference. I would still be daughterless.

had to go on holiday to get better. She was only 2. (pause) What are you supposed to say?! (pause) How do you cope with a child who has just lost her mother?

Both freeze as River Flows In You continues to play. An old recording of Kimberly and Robert begins to play. Echoes throughout Robert's 'mind'. Just voices, no action.

Kimberly: Daddy, where's my mommy?

Robert: (avoids question) Ermmm, she should be home soon darling.

Kimberly: (begins to sob) But daddy, where is she?

Robert: Don't worry. She's just gone away for a little while. She'll be back before you know it.

'back before you know it' echoes and gradually fades out. As that fades out, River Flows In You fades up.

Robert: (over River Flows In You) I can't believe I lied to her. (head in hands) I should've just told her. But she was 2. (shrugs shoulders) I had no idea how she would cope with it all. Sometimes... Sometimes I just wish I could turn back the clock and make sure we had the right baby. I suppose it wouldn't make any difference. I would still be daughterless.

(pause) *fiddling with baby clothes*

make up all over her face from the crying, still cutting photos

Kimberly: He started lying to me when he first found out I wasn't his. He was on the phone to Mom who told him about the tests results. I was upstairs listening. He didn't know and then full on lied to me. He said it was the plumber. Well that was a lie. I'm glad I'm leaving him. He doesn't deserve to have a child when all he is going to do is lie to them.

pause

Freeze, RFLY plays, old recording, Echoes throughout 'mind', voices

Robert: Okay, thank you... Yeah, I'll tell her... Ermmm, I'm not sure... I'll figure out a way to do it... Yeah, I'll phone you back when I've done it... mhmmmm... yep... Okay then... Bye...Bye.

Footsteps, running down stairs
Kimberly: Who was that Dad?

Robert: Oh, ermmm, noone. Just the plumber.

trying to get milk out
Kimberly: What have you got to tell me?

Robert: Oh, just that you need to remember to put the mat down when you shower. That's all.

3

cut through photos with each word.

avoiding question

angry laugh

sigh

'That's all' echoes, gradually fades out as RFIY fades up

Robert: I know I shouldn't have lied to her. It was never a good idea. It was one of those lies, you know, that starts out as a tiny white lie but then it just keeps on getting bigger and bigger and bigger until it all gets out of control. I shouldn't've let it get this far! I only told her when I was threatened. The Twiggs threatened to take my baby away from me. How could they do that? She's my baby! She's always been my baby. I've always been there for her. She's not going to have this ^{love} attention when she moves away. She needs it. She won't cope without it.

pause

quickly

pause

hugging baby clothes

RFIY fades back up.

Kimberly: He seems to think that I'm incapable of looking after myself. He's been there every time he thinks something's wrong. Most of the time, there is nothing wrong at all. He just assumes he knows me because I've lived with him for the whole of my life. He's wrong. Like, cutting the ties with my family the first time. He has no right to do that. Admittedly, I wasn't coping but it was never up to him about how I led my life and who I saw!

angry

pause, quieter every word nothing

Freeze, RFIY fade out, dd recording, echo

Judge: Case closed.

(man hugging girl centre stage)

Robert: Don't you worry Kimberly, you never have to see them ever again.

never have to see them ever again, echoes, gradually fade out, RFIY back up.

Kimberly: He didn't understand. I wanted to spend my life with them. At least they wouldn't lie to me. He doesn't know me. Not in the slightest. The only person who knows me well enough to do things for me is Mom. She's the one who gave birth to me.

She's the one who knows everything about me. Robert doesn't. He doesn't deserve me. He doesn't deserve anyone. Finally, I'm getting my own way.

hammer down

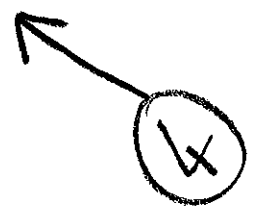
quiet

pause, laugh

angry, teeth clenched

pulling away last memory into bin bag

pick's bag up and leaves room as she is packing things up. Robert is carefully closing suitcase and puts it on the bed. Leaves room. As soon as he's left, K walks onto centre stage where there is a big black bin. Takes lid off, puts bag in. Goes to leave, hesitates, looks back at bin then leaves for definite



General cover, centre stage

facing slightly to right

Twigg Household. Gathered on the porch of the house are the 7 Twigg children. There is an air of excitement but also caution as they await the arrival of Kimberly. They begin to discuss what they have heard their parents saying about how their life will change when Kimberly arrives. As they are talking, they are fiddling with their clothes and smartening each other up.

Irisa: When's she supposed to be arriving?

Alice: I'm not sure but I think mom said about half 5. I'm actually rather excited now. I know we've met her before and everything but things are gonna be different now she's moving in with us for good.

Jack: Yeah, I suppose but, by the sounds of things, things are gonna get very different around here.

Alice: What d'you mean?

Jack: Have you not heard all the things Mom and Pop have been saying?

Alice: Ermmmm, no?

Jasmine: As if you haven't heard them talking about it!

Alice: Well, I'm sorry I'm not a nosey Parker. (sticks tongue out, makes)

Jasmine: I'm not saying you are, I'm just saying that they've been making it pretty obvi...

Irisa: Guys, stop! We don't want Kimberly to arrive and just see us arguing. That's not the kind of family we are.

Alice: I'll stop when I'm told what's been said!

Jasmine: Basically, they've just been saying that our routine is gonna change slightly.

Alice: In what way?

Charlie: Are you seriously asking this?

Alice: Well, yeah. I don't understand what you're saying.

Rupert: All they've said is that we're gonna have to behave slightly differently around Kim.

(Kimberly enters and stands awkwardly to the side of them) ← backs to her

causes to think about

trying to placate she is better than her

confused

embarrassed

disbelief

5

cutting Jasmine off

skimming over, not much detail

CURIOS

annoyed

pause, quiet, than before

calming Alice down, informing her

downstage left

Irisa: Yeah, she's been an only child all her life, the woman she thought was her mom died of cancer and then her step-mom left them. Hardly the best childhood for her to have now is it?

Alice: I suppose. But, does this mean we're gonna have to sort of teach her how to be part of a family?

Harry: Oh, and she finally catches on. Good work Alice, good work.

Alice: Shut up Harry.

Kimberly: Ermm, hello.

Alice: Surely, being part of a family is instinct? If she can't do that then she must be...

Kimberly: Hi.

All turn around to look at her, Alice looks extremely embarrassed.

considers what to say

Kimberly looks awkward at side of stage, running hand through hair

SARCASM

begins a slow sarcastic

quietly, almost whisper

throws him an evil look
doesn't hear Kim

Kimberly clears her throat to interrupt and catch their attention

Devices

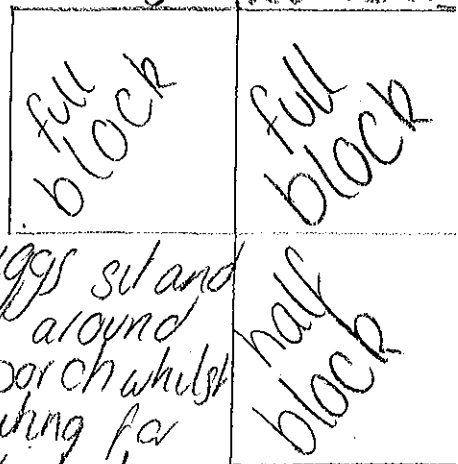
Structural Device	Example	Justification
Climax	Kimberly's 4th monologue	To release the tension that had been building up throughout the scene
Denouement	Throughout the piece	To slowly explain to the audience the background of the character and stimulus
Rising Action	Kimberly's 1st monologue	To show that there is a lot of anger within Kimberly and she has to let it all out

CONVENTIONS

Conventions

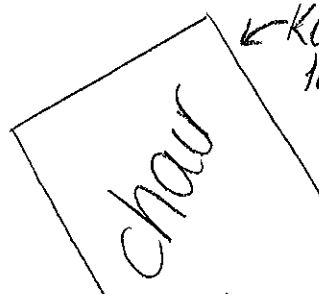
Convention	Example	Justification
Flash backs	Flashback to first birthday	To emphasise the emotions of the characters
		To show an event in more detail than description could do
		To show what is going on inside the characters head
Voiceovers	Used in all flashbacks	To create an older feel
		To show that the characters are remembering and the memories are grainy
Freezeframes	Used for Robert and Kimberly during flashbacks	To create the feeling of going back in time
		To emphasise the feelings of Robert and Kimberly at certain points
Mime	Used during the flashbacks	To break up the monologues
		To ensure the audience follow the story line

The stage block
porch area for
Twiggs are
Kimberly



The Twiggs sit and
stand around
the porch whilst
waiting for
Kimberly.

During a
flashback
moves from
to offstage

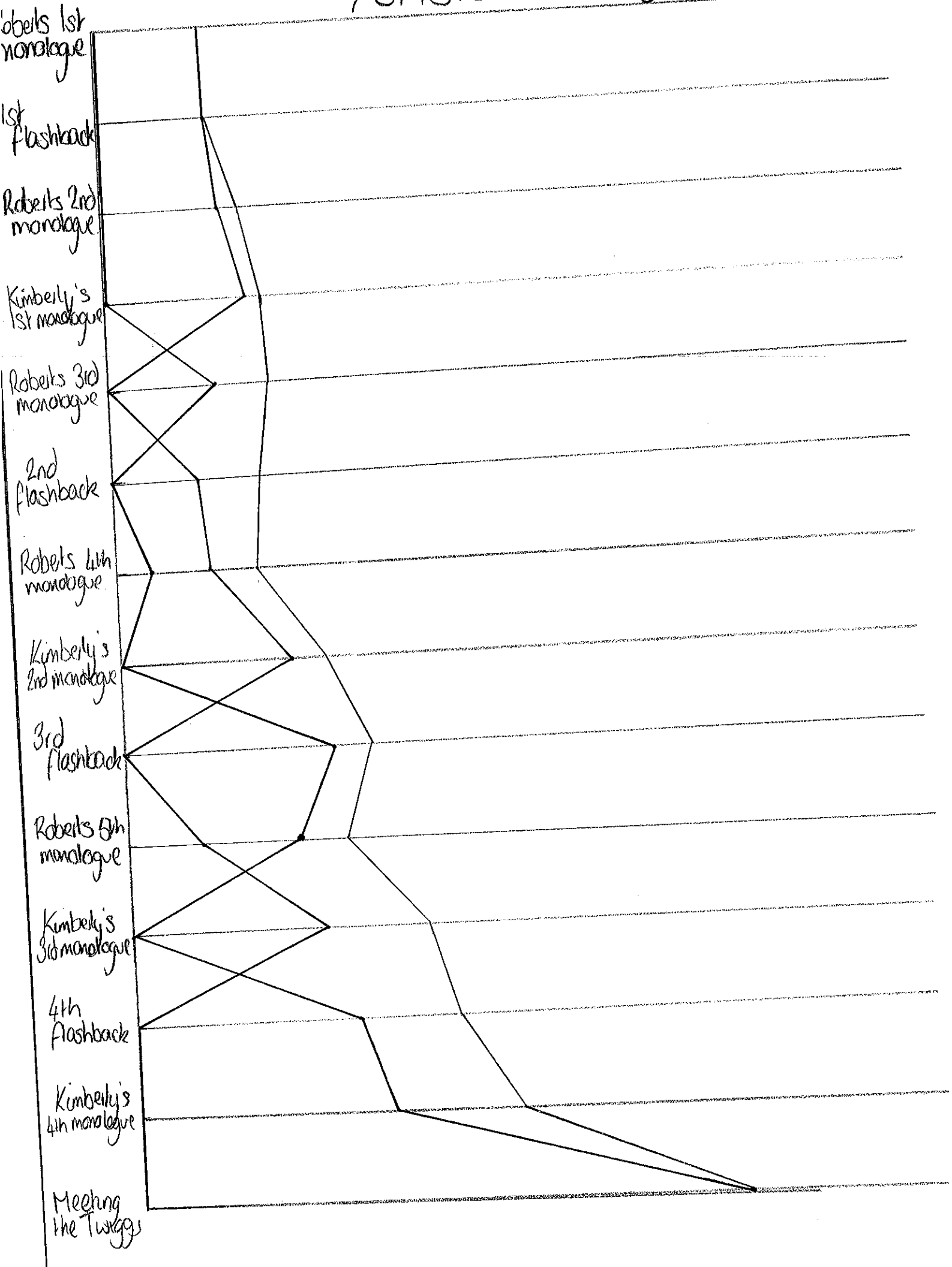


← Kimberly will sit on
the chair and move
onto the floor when
she begins to cry.
'They're all lies'

After Kimberly says 'Finally,
I'm getting my own way'
she exits stage right

Tension

■ script
■ Robert.
■ Kimberly.



FINAL SCRIPT

Music: River Flows In You – Yiruma, fades down, background music when Robert is talking but the only sound during the opening section:

Stage right, spot comes up on Kimberly in YMCA hostel. Surrounding her are photos, birthday cards and various other memories from her childhood. There is also a black bin bag and a pair of scissors close to her. One by one, she cuts and shreds the photos and birthday cards and throws them away into the black bin bag. As she is doing this, stage left, a spot comes up on Robert Mays who is looking through memorabilia (baby clothes, drawings, photos) that he has of Kimberly. He is in Kimberly's bedroom at their home. It has been her bedroom all of her life. However, instead of shredding them, he is folding them and putting them away, holding onto the memories.

Robert: *(over River Flows In You) (barely looks up at the audience, spends majority of time looking at the floor or at the items he is surrounded by) I don't understand where it all went so wrong. I thought, when I stopped the visits, everything would go back to normal. During those visits, Kim wasn't herself. (pause) At all. (pause) She became even more detached and even more reserved than she was before. (pause) And then she just broke down. (shrugs shoulders, sad laugh) She told me she wanted her life back. The way it was before the Twiggs got involved. But something changed. In these last five months the situations have been switched. I can't believe she's cut all ties with me. She's left me with nobody, literally. (pause) Those Twiggs already have 7 children and they're taking Kim away from me. (angry) I feel like I've let Barbara down completely. She made Kim so happy. (smiling to self, remembering, begins to go through birthday cards on the floor) Her first birthday was one of the happiest days of my life. (hugs the baby clothes and birthday cards he picked up from the floor)*

Everything freezes, just an old recording of voices playing, echoing around Roberts 'mind', a chorus of 'Happy Birthday' begins, hear a baby laughing throughout the whole thing. As the recording is playing, lights up on center stage on a couple crowded round a pram, facing audience.

Robert: Happy birthday Kimberly!

(together)

Barbara: Happy birthday Kim!

Couple on stage begins to push the pram offstage right.

Robert: She's grown up so quickly, look at her hair!

Barbara: I know, she makes me so happy.

Robert: And me. You're our special girl. I promise for as long as we live, we will always look after you Kim.

'always look after you Kim' echoes and gradually fades out. As the echo fades, the lights on center stage also fade. As the two fade out, River Flows in You begins again.

River Flows In You fades slightly

Robert: *(over River Flows In You) I promised. (angry with himself) And I've broken that promise. I've sent her to another part of the country with a family she barely even knows to live with. To a complete family. To a family that has been together for all these years. (fiddles with the baby outfit) She's been an only child for her whole life. (shrugs shoulders, fighting back tears) I don't know if she's going to be able to cope. She'll have to share things. She'll have to do things as a group. (looks up to audience, laughs) We struggled to get her out of the house! (pauses, feels guilty about laughing) I just don't know how she's going to cope having to be part of an already close family. She's just not the sociable type. At all. (begins to go through the items on the floor in detail)*

River Flows in You fades back up as both go through items. Stage right, Kimberly is cutting and shredding her memories and stage left, Robert is carefully putting things away.

Kimberly: *(over River Flows In You) He thinks I'm leaving because of him. (angrily) I hate how he always presumes that everything is always to do with him. Most of the time it never is. But it's not because of him. (pause) Look at all of these photos. (shows the audience all of the photos. With every word, she throws a group of photos on to the floor) Every single one of them is a lie. (all photos on floor) I don't want to have to carry on living a lie as if nothing's wrong with it. (clenching teeth, anger building up) All my life I've been told not to lie. If I stayed with Robert then that's exactly what I would be doing. Lying. I can't just sit here, doing nothing with my life when I have a whole different life to discover with my real family. (Lights fade up on centre stage. Whole Twigg family are together, laughing and enjoying themselves. All in garden. Irisa, Ernest and Regina are talking together, Alice and Jasmine are skipping together, the 4 boys playing a game of cards. All are enjoying the sunshine and being together as the family) People keep asking me what I mean by real family. They say that surely Robert's my 'real family'. (disbelieving laugh, angry) We've never been a family. (left hand out) He had Barbara. She died. (right hand out) He had Darlena. She left. (both hands in front) He's had so many others in between that I can't even remember their names. We've never been a stable family. (laughing) That's all I've ever wanted: a stable life. If I stay here, I'm not going to get it. I mean, look at all of these photos. They're all lies. (begins to cry) Just another reminder that my whole life has been a complete and utter lie. (quieter) And I can't cope with that. I need to be living the truth. In the real world. In a real family. Why can't anybody accept that?! (hysterical, crying, attacking photos with scissors)*

River Flows in You fades back up as Kimberly curls up in a ball and begins to rock backwards and forwards. Robert is slowly making his way through packing up all of the items.

Robert: *(over River Flows In You)* looking back through all of this *(gestures to the items around him)*, just keeps bringing everything back. When Barbara was ill, Kim was just like she is now: withdrawn, distant, reserved. The amount of time she spent, wanting to be with her mum was ridiculous. When she finally died, I didn't know what to say to her. *(fighting back tears)* All Kim wanted was her mom. *(pause)* She kept asking for her, over and over again. I couldn't tell her what had really happened. I kept telling her she'd had to go on holiday to get better. She was only 2. *(pause)* What are you supposed to say?! *(pause)* How do you cope with a child who has just lost her mother?

Both freeze as River Flows In You continues to play. An old recording of Kimberly and Robert begins to play. Echoes throughout Robert's 'mind'. Just voices, no action.

Kimberly: Daddy, where's my mommy?

Robert: *(avoids question)* Ermmm, she should be home soon darling.

Kimberly: *(begins to sob)* But daddy, where is she?

Robert: Don't worry. She's just gone away for a little while. She'll be back before you know it.

'back before you know it' echoes and gradually fades out. As that fades out, River Flows In You fades up.

Robert: *(over River Flows In You)* I can't believe I lied to her. *(head in hands)* I should've just told her. But she was 2. *(shrugs shoulders)* I had no idea how she would cope with it all. Sometimes... Sometimes I just wish I could turn back the clock and make sure we had the right baby. I suppose it wouldn't make any difference. I would still be daughterless. *(fiddling with baby clothes)*

Kimberly: *(make-up all over the place from crying. Still cutting photos)* He started lying to me when he first found out I wasn't his. He was on the phone to Mom who told him about the tests results. *(laughs)* I was upstairs listening. He didn't know and then *(with each word she cuts at the photos)* full on lied to me. He said it was the plumber. *(angry laugh)* Well that was a lie. *(pause)* I'm glad I'm leaving him. *(pause)* He doesn't deserve to have a child when all he is going to do is lie to them.

Both freeze as River Flows In You continues to play. An old recording of Robert and Kimberly begins to play. Echoes around Kimberly's 'mind'.

Robert: Okay, thankyou... Yeah, I'll tell her... Ermmm, I'm not sure... *(sigh)* I'll figure out a way to do it... Yeah, I'll phone you back when I've done it... mhmmmm... yep... Okay then... Bye...Bye.

Lights up on center stage. Sound of footsteps running down the stairs. Little girl comes running on stage from stage left to father standing center stage.

Kimberly: Who was that Dad?

Father on stage gives girl a massive hug.

Robert: You sound like an elephant running down those stairs!

Kimberly: *(muffled, trying to get truth out)* What have you got to tell me?

Father onstage holds onto girl.

Robert: Oh, just that you have a math test on Monday. That's all.

'That's all' echoes and gradually fades out. Lights on center stage fade on father and daughter still hugging. As both fade out, River Flows In You fades up.

Robert: I know I shouldn't have lied to her. It was never a good idea. *(faster than before)* It was one of those lies, you know, that starts out as a tiny white lie but then it just keeps on getting bigger and bigger and bigger until it all gets out of control. *(pause)* I shouldn't've let it get this far. *(pause)* I only told her when I was threatened. The Twiggs threatened to take my baby away from me. *(begins to sob)* How could they do that? She's my baby. *(pause)* *(quieter than before)* She's always been my baby. *(hugging baby clothes)* I've always been there for her. She's not going to have this love when she moves away. She needs it. She won't cope without it. *(begins to rock backwards and forwards)*

Kimberly: He seems to think that I'm incapable of looking after myself. He's been there every time he thinks something's wrong. Most of the time, there is nothing wrong at all. He just assumes he knows me because I've lived with him for the whole of my life. *(pause)* *(quieter than before)* He's wrong. Like, cutting the ties with my family the first time. *(quieter than before)* He had no right to do that. Admittedly, I wasn't coping but it was never up to him about how I led my life and who I saw!

Both freeze as River Flows In You continues to play. An old recording of Robert and the judge begins to play. Echoes around Kimberly's 'mind'.

Judge: *(hammer down)* Case closed.

Lights up center stage on father and daughter hugging.

Robert: Don't you worry Kimberly, you never have to see them ever again.

'you never have to see them ever again' echoes and gradually fades out. Lights on centre stage fade on father and daughter still hugging. As both fade out, River Flows In You fades up.

Kimberly: *(quiet)* He didn't understand. I wanted to spend my life with them. *(angry, teeth clenched)* At least they wouldn't lie to me. He doesn't know how I feel. Not in the slightest. The only person who knows me well enough to do things for me is Mom. She's the one who gave birth to me. She's the one who knows everything about me. Robert doesn't. *(pause)* He doesn't deserve me. *(pause)* *(a lot quieter than before)* He doesn't deserve anyone. *(picking up every last memory and putting them into the bin bag)* Finally, I'm getting my own way.

Kimberly picks up the bin bag once everything is in it and leaves the room. Exit stage right. Spot light fades on Kimberly's room in the hospice. As she is packing things up, Robert is on the other side of the stage Robert puts the final things into the suitcase of memorabilia and carefully shuts the suitcase. He places the suitcase on the bed and exits stage left. Spot light fades on Kimberly's room at their house. As soon as Robert has left, lights come up on centre stage. Kimberly enters upstage right with the bin bag. She is in the reception of the YMCA hospice. There is no one else around. She puts the bag into the bin and turns to walk away. As she is walking away, she hesitates and turns around to look at the bin. She goes to walk back to it but changes her mind and leaves. Exits upstage left. Lights fade to blackout on the bin in the middle of the stage.

Centre stage, generally cover lighting, slightly dimmed. Twigg Household. Early evening. Gathered on the porch of the house are the 7 Twigg children. Facing slightly to the right, in a vague horseshoe shape. Alice and Irisa are the centre of it. There is an air of excitement but also caution as they await the arrival of Kimberly. They begin to discuss what they have heard their parents saying about how their life will change when Kimberly arrives. As they are talking, they are fiddling with their clothes and smartening each other up. All are wearing Sunday best to create a good first impression for Kimberly.

Irisa: *(sorting out Harry's tie)* When's she supposed to be arriving?

Alice: *(flattening out the creases in her dress)* I'm not sure but I think mom said about half 5. I'm actually rather excited now. I know we've met her before and everything but things are gonna be different now she's moving in with us for good.

Jack: Yeah, I suppose but, by the sounds of things, things are gonna get very different around here.

Alice: What d'you mean?

Jack: Have you not heard all the things Mom and Pop have been saying?

Alice: *(pauses to think about it)* Ermmmm, no?

Jasmine: *(shocked)* As if you haven't heard them talking about it!

Alice: Well, I'm sorry I'm not a nosey parker. *(sticks tongue out and mocks her)*

Jasmine: *(attempts to prove she is better than her twin)* I'm not saying you are, I'm just saying that they've been making it pretty obvi...

Irisa: *(cuts Jasmine off)* Guys, stop! We don't want Kimberly to arrive and just see us arguing. That's not the kind of family we are.

Alice: *(angry, frustrated)* I'll stop when I'm told what's been said!

Jasmine: *(skimming over the surface, doesn't want to go into detail)* Basically, they've just been saying that our routine is gonna change slightly.

Alice: *(curious)* In what way?

Charlie: *(annoyed)* Are you seriously asking this?

Alice: *(embarrassed)* Well, yeah. *(pauses)(quieter than before)* I don't understand what you're saying.

Rupert: *(calming Alice down, informing her)* All they've said is that we're gonna have to behave slightly differently around Kim.

(Kimberly enters downstage left and stands awkwardly to the side of them. She is constantly running her hands through her hair as if it annoying her. They have their backs to her so she isn't seen)

Irisa: Yeah, she's been an only child all her life, the woman she thought was her mom died of cancer and then her step-mom left them. Hardly the best childhood for her to have now is it?

(Kimberly looks awkward and embarrassed at the side of stage)

Alice: I suppose. But, *(considering how to say and phrase what she wants to say)* does this mean we're gonna have to sort of teach her how to be part of a family?

Harry: *(sarcastic)* Oh, and she finally catches on. Good work Alice, good work. *(Begins a slow sarcastic clap. A few giggles are heard from the rest of the group)*

Alice: Shut up Harry. *(throws him an evil look)*

Kimberly: *(quietly, almost a whisper)* Ermm, hello.

Alice: *(doesn't hear Kimberly)* Surely, being part of a family is instinct? If she can't do that then she must be...

(Kimberly clears her throat to interrupt and catch their attention before she hears something she doesn't want to)

Kimberly: Hi.

(All Twiggs turn to look at her, Alice looks extremely embarrassed, avoids eye contact with anybody)

Evaluation

In my script, I had three main intentions. These were:

- To portray the feelings of Ernest and Regina Twigg through their seven children.
- To show conflicting views by using purely actions.
- To show that Robert is not going to cope completely by himself.

My target audience is teenagers and young adults as they will be able to relate to the situations in my script very easily. The dilemmas and situations my characters face are no different from day to day problems in reality.

The main genre in my script was gritty realism as it portrayed the feelings of my characters in the best way. I used a naturalistic style with some non-naturalistic theatre entwined. I used this as it emphasised the feelings and emotions of my characters. It also allowed the audience to become more familiar with the background of my two main characters.

From my script, I wanted the audience to understand both families had very different ways of raising their children. Robert Mays raised Kimberly in a very protected environment which is why he is unsure about how she will cope in a large family. "(Robert) I don't know if she's going to be able to cope." The Twiggs have raised their children in a much more

Jess

Toogood.

else to do with Robert. By getting Robert to do practically the opposite at the same time shows that he still wants to be able to treasure every moment with Kimberly. I think getting the two characters to do this was particularly effective as it became a physical thing rather than just put up emotions.

To achieve my third intention, I got Robert to break down on stage. By getting him to break down, it shows the audience that things had been building up inside him and they had finally got too much. (Robert) she won't care without it (begins to rock backwards and forwards). The break down is also the last the audience see of Robert and it leaves questions of his capability left with the audience. I think this was the best way to get the audience to understand his heartbreak and also leave questions in their minds.

I used flashbacks to give the audience a bit of background knowledge on how the situation had developed and how the ~~relationships~~ relationships had changed. I hope the audience will respond well to these flashbacks as they give vital information to the script. Within the flashbacks, I used voiceovers, freeze frames and music to portray the stories being told in the best way.

I feel my dress rehearsal presentation went well. I feel I got all of my main points over to the audience in an interesting and captivating way. I referred to my image board and my