

## Appendix – examples

An example of an appropriate text is Niki Caro’s film *North Country*. A key issue in this film is the unfairness of gender discrimination. In this film, Josey Aimes, a victim of domestic abuse, returns home to her parents’ mining town in Northern Minnesota with her two children. She takes a job at the local mine in order to provide for her family. As a result, she and the other female employees at the mine are subjected to verbal, physical, and sexual harassment from the male miners. *North Country* focuses on the issue of gender discrimination.

In this text it would be possible to look at **differing perspectives** from:

- Josey Aimes – Josey is motivated at first by wanting to provide for her family, and then fights for the rights of all female employees at the mine
- the other women who work at the mine – those who do not want Josey to make the situation any worse and those who eventually stand with her
- Bobby Sharp – this miner, who harasses Josey, offers a miner’s view of women and their suitability as miners
- Hank Aimes – Josey’s father represents, at least at first, the views of a typical male miner
- Sammy Aimes – Josey’s son offers his perspective on the role he would like his mother to play.

Text studied	<i>North Country</i> directed by Niki Caro	
Issue arising from text	Gender discrimination – exploration of the role of women in a traditional mining town.	
Perspective 1	Josey Aimes	Not a heroine – ordinary woman who wants to provide for her family. In the court case = crusader for equal rights.
Perspective 2	Other women who work at the mine	Glory, Big Betty, Sherry, and Peg – why some women want Josey to stop the lawsuit, how some are motivated to support her eventually.
Perspective 3	Hank Aimes	Offers typical male miner’s viewpoint. Changes viewpoint – his disgust of how miners treat his daughter.
Perspective 4	Sammy Aimes	Offers a child’s view of a mother’s role.

### Extract from seminar on gender discrimination in *North Country*

Josey’s perspective	Oral language features
What is our first impression of Josey Aimes? Battered housewife? Victim? A woman forced to return home to her parents? Josey is portrayed as an ordinary, single mum who tries to live independently by working at the mine. However, her rights are violated at work as she and many other women get abused because they are entering a non-traditional domain for women. The male miners don’t believe that women should be allowed to work at the mine, as it is no place for a woman.	Use of rhetorical questions to engage audience and to create a sympathetic view of Josey.
Hank conforms to the expectations and attitudes of the	The student offers his or her own

<p>male miners and does not want Josey to challenge the norms. Bobby believes that it is inappropriate for women to become miners, and this translates to him giving the women cleaning jobs. He is also able to assert his power over Josey as she must do as he asks.</p>	<p>opinion about the miners' attitudes towards women.</p>
<p>If women are able to do the same work as the male miners, then their masculinity is threatened. Most of the harassment the women are subjected to has sexual overtones to allow the men to reassert their masculinity. Josey seeks many ways to solve the problem such as going to the Head Manager Don Pearson and attending the union meeting to express her opinion. Toward the end of the film, she files a lawsuit against the company, as no improvements are being made, and wins the case. Josey did not desire to be a crusader for women's rights; she didn't even want to work at the mine in the first place. As an audience, we admire her tenacity and sense of justice because her determination to do what is right costs her greatly in her relationships with her parents, son, and friends. We can't help but question whether we would be as brave as Josey in the face of such adversity. Could we suffer the humiliation she experiences at the hands of Bobby's wife at the ice hockey game or at the union meeting, when even the other women sit in silence and refuse to support her?</p>	<p>Ideas are developed, sustained, and integrated with specific examples used from the film. The student offers a personal response to Josey's experience and perspective as a female miner.</p>
<p>Use of quotation as contextual evidence to support ideas. Josey: "Yeah, I would like a turn at the gavel." Peg: "Oh, she really lost it now."</p>	<p>This could lead into discussion of Josey's perspective in contrast to those of the other women. Why does Peg think Josey has lost it by asking to speak at the union meeting? What are we encouraged to think at this point?</p>