

Dossier

- Aim:** reviewing character or action; everyday vocabulary; question formation
- Level:** lower-intermediate
- Material:** drama films; soap operas; parallel book and film scenes

Procedure

- 1 After viewing, choose one of the characters and write on the board any details the class can remember on every aspect of his/her life, from where she buys her shoes to the name of his cat or the make of her car, using the headings *history, domestic situation, looks, lifestyle, virtues and vices, habits, hang-ups, pastimes, love life, work and career, prospects, hopes and fears*.
- 2 Students then choose their own character (one each, or one per group), create a similar dossier and write it up or report orally. Remind them to use the present tense.

Variations

- 1 *Quiz* Students devise ten questions about the character as a quiz for other viewers, providing a key on a separate page. The questions must be detailed and answerable (points of fact, not opinion), require short answers, and be grammatically correct.
- 2 *To recap the beginning of a film* Students select one main character each, or one per group, and write down all they know about him/her, one fact per line. They should include obvious things like age, job, height, appearance, as well as more complicated information. If not sure they should write questions or *I think / She seems / He could be*. Students compare notes, then view the introduction again and extend their lists.
- 3 *For soap operas* To orient themselves when they first enter the scenario, students re-view the first episode and make lists of *Who* (the people), *Where* (places) and *What* (organizations, major activities), with the important facts about each (divide the work between three students). Later, after viewing other episodes, they select three people, organizations or places and collect the essential information about them on index cards. These can be updated into a mini-archive to brief students starting on the soap, and can form a basis for quizzes and scrapbook contributions (**Soap chronicles**).