

Target audience

7-11 year olds

Objective

To emphasise the personal responsibility of taking and sharing digital imagery.

Message

Only share an image of someone else if they have said it's ok. Uniting to share a positive image has a greater, more positive impact.

Key points

Be mindful of your digital footprint and be careful what you post. Tell an adult if something or someone upsets you. If you and your friends can do this, then you can ... 'Be the change: Unite for a better internet'.

THIS IS YOUR INTERNET

Duration

10 minutes

Background

Many moons ago there was a television series called 'THIS IS YOUR LIFE'. Well known people were surprised by the show's presenter and taken to the TV studio where the story of their life was shared from a large red book. Surprise guests were invited to share anecdotes about the guest. The last show of this series was aired on August 8, 2003.

THIS IS YOUR INTERNET is a one act play which tells the story of Sam's past, present and future online experience and the images he has shared and will share. Sam recounts the story of a dream he had where his online actions are charted from the first time he used technology to starting his first job.

A performance piece for children to act out for their parents and peers to reflect the message of this year's Safer Internet Day.

The set

Position 3 rows of chairs in a diagonal format on either side of the performance space. This is for the pretend guests to sit. A large screen to project or screen a pre-recorded piece (optional).

Cast

You can change the roles/locations to suit your class/setting.

Host (carries and refers to a tablet throughout, which means they can read most of the lines from the script if necessary)

Sam

Studio Crew 1 & 2 (Equip them with headphones and clipboards)

Katy (Sam's sister)

Joe (Sam's friend)

Lara

Grace

Mum

Daniel

Lisa

Taylor

Mr Jones

Act One Scene 1

Sam: Hi I'm Sam. I had the weirdest dream last night and wanted to tell you all about it. It was like I was being warned about the future or something. Don't get me wrong, I'm not mystic or anything but this was seriously real and it took me a while to realise that it wasn't ... that it was only a dream.

There I was, doing nothing much when out of the blue I was surprised by this famous TV presenter who told me that I was his guest that week...

SAM'S DREAM SEQUENCE – Either pre-record the following and play it on a large screen positioned behind the acting area or act it out through improvisation.

Sam is minding his own business – simply standing somewhere, walking down the street, working on a laptop or perhaps eating lunch. The TV Host and studio crew appear.

Host: (directly to camera or to the audience, carrying a tablet and speaking in a hushed tone) so, we've managed to locate Sam and he has absolutely no idea that we're here. Let's go and surprise him. Follow me ...

Host: Sam Hinkley...

Sam looks up in shock, then surprise at the realisation of what's happening and who is there.

Host: Sam Hinkley ... This ... is ... your ... Internet!

Cue theme music. Enter a few of Sam's family and friends who position themselves on the on stage seating.

The Host ushers Sam into the performance space. The staged studio crew encourage the audience to applaud as Sam enters. As Sam arrives, he spots the familiar faces in the crowd on stage. The applause subsides, conducted by the studio crew.

Host: Sam James Hinkley, you were born at the King Alfred Hospital in the small town of Bampton on Sea at 2.15am on November 5th 2005. Much to your embarrassment, your parents later shared this memory as one of their first status updates in 2006 when they became social networkers ...

A picture of Sam on a social network status post arrives with the caption 'what a cutie'.

Host: In fact they have shared quite a lot of information about you over time Sam but more about that later. For now, here's your sister Katy to tell us a bit more about you. Katy, what can you remember about Sam as a young boy?

Katy speaks from her seat.

Katy: That he was so annoying!

On stage guests laugh.

Katy: I remember Sam was interested in technology from a really young age. He would work out how to play online games very quickly and loved this camera he was given. He would take my photo and add moustaches and things. Make me look really silly. He would always creep up on me and take pictures then show his friends the pictures!

Host: Another of your parents' online posts shared that you started school at Bampton Primary on the 7th of September 2010. Several images of you standing proudly in front of the school gate were seen and liked by 124 people. It was during this time that you discovered your interest in online gaming. Your best friend at primary school, Joe is here to tell us more...

Enter Joe

Joe: Sam, you were completely obsessed with playing games. Day and night. I would definitely say you were the best player at school. You certainly earned that title from the amount you would play! It wasn't until some stranger started talking to you and we encouraged you to tell your mum, that you stopped playing as much.

Host: Sam that must have been quite a worrying time for you?

Sam: Yes it was. A few of us were playing and chatting online, then someone joined our group. Someone we didn't know in real life but said they were into the same things as us. They seemed ok at first but then started asking to meet up. Joe and my other friends helped me and encouraged me to tell someone. We took screenshots of the conversation and reported the person. It was really scary at the time though.

Host: By the age of 10 you had inherited your dad's old phone. It was here that you rediscovered your photography skills. A series of selfies and group shots of your friends ensued. It was at this time that you developed the art of creating memes.

Sam: Yes, it started out as a bit of a joke between us all. We would take pictures of each other and make them look funny by adding graphics or writing something on them.

Grace appears either on screen or in person

Grace: Sam, do you remember that time you took that picture of me when I had that allergic reaction and you thought it was funny to make me look like a zombie. I went along with it at the time but I was actually really upset about it. Especially as you shared it to pretty much everyone at school. Thankfully someone else created a new one soon after so the attention was off me.

Sam: Really sorry Grace. I had no idea it upset you so much. We were only having a laugh.

Grace: You were having a laugh Sam! You did manage to turn it around pretty quickly though when you helped Lara Cooper to find her missing cat.

Host: Here's Lara to tell us more.

Lara speaks from her seat

Lara: That's right. Our cat went missing so Sam suggested that we put a shout out to see if anyone had spotted it. You asked your mum to post it on an online community group page and you also printed loads of pictures to stick around the area. Someone replied to the message your mum posted and within a week we had our cat back.

Host: (speaking to Sam's mum sitting on one of the chairs at the front) Jean, you must have been very proud of your son.

Mum: Incredibly. He checked with me first to see if it was ok and I didn't hesitate to help him out. It was such a kind thing to do and so many people got involved to help find the cat.

Host: A fantastic demonstration of positive use of the internet there. However, this is put to the test once you head to secondary school and someone in your class is bullied. The bullying moves on to cyberbullying and despite knowing what is going on you choose to remain silent. Here's Daniel to tell us a bit more about it.

Either on screen or enter Daniel. We are now representing what could be Sam's future.

Daniel: We meet when we go to secondary school and become friends pretty quickly Sam. There's a group of us. Not entirely sure why I start giving Lisa a hard time. Because she's quiet perhaps? A bit of a nerd. It doesn't really matter as it's a laugh picking on her. I manage to get other people involved and we all share a picture of her that I take. It's a really embarrassing picture of her crying. You don't grass me up as you're involved in the bullying too by this point. Loads of us become involved because we all send the picture around. Lisa tells the school and we all get into serious trouble.

Host: Lisa can't be here today but she has sent an email to you.

Reads out the message

Hi Sam. As much as I would have liked to have been there today I still find it difficult to face you. I become so upset by the cyberbullying and what you all do to me with the images you send around. Our school does a great job in bringing us together to talk about what happens but I decide to try and forget it all by moving away. I do find out who starts the bullying but this actually makes it worse as I discover you knew all along and decide not to say anything.

Good luck with the future. Lisa.

Host: You do learn from this experience though and become a school councillor to help other students who are feeling left out.

As a voice over –

Taylor: You won't remember me as we haven't met me yet. We become really good friends in the last two years of secondary. Just after we take our last exams (you do pretty well in them by the way) we set up a fundraising campaign to raise some money for our local community centre that is under threat of closure. My dad helps us set it up and we use our social network to spread the word and share images of the centre and what we want to do to help. It's a massive success and we manage to put the closure on hold and keep the centre open.

Host: This is followed by a series of online photographs shared by your respective family and friends. These are only a few from the hundreds of photographs your parents share of you growing up Sam. Something you become a bit embarrassed about as you get older. Katy, can you recount any particular photo that Sam is not too happy about?

Katy: Oh yes! When Sam is 15 he attends a family event where he politely wears a jumper given to him as a present. He's not at all keen on the jumper, especially as it's a bit too small but Mum encourages him to wear it just for that day. As much as he tries to avoid being in any photographs he can't escape the group shot. Mum shares the picture with everyone involved and the picture is seen by lots and lots of people. Sam is mortified by this and asks Mum to never post another picture of him. This lasts until he goes travelling.

Host: Sam, you decide to take a gap year after you leave school and travel overseas to go and stay with family friends. You keep in touch with everyone back home by regularly sending images of where you go and all the amazing things you see. On your return you head off to University in Leeds. Much of your time there is recorded on social media. You create a large digital footprint and later regret many of the images you post! You leave University and manage to get a job fairly quickly. However, it is during this time that you decide to skip your first day and tell your employer that you're not feeling well. Mr Jones, your future employer, what can you tell us about this?

Mr Jones is sitting in the onstage audience.

Mr Jones: Yes, Sam foolishly posts lots of picture of himself out and about on the day he is supposed to start working with us. I do have to call him in to my office the following day to tell him what I know and show him what I've seen. However, we do decide to give Sam a chance as ultimately he does try his best to be a good online citizen. No more incidents like that occur and during his time working with us, Sam does go on to demonstrate that uniting with your online community is a positive way of proving that we can be the change for a better internet.

Host: Sam Hinkley ... THIS IS YOUR INTERNET

Cue music

Everyone freezes on stage except Sam.

Sam: See what I mean?! Not sure that I want to know what my future holds but that dream really made me think about things. The internet can be as great and safe as you want it to be.

Still image on the background screen (or a banner) saying –

BE THE CHANGE – **UNITE FOR A BETTER INTERNET**

The End

Teacher's/group leader's notes

There are a number of different issues raised throughout the play, so here are a couple of suggestions for follow on activities that you could use to support these.

Please note that the play features Sam as his future self where he begins to use social media. **We have included this to highlight the fact that most sites stipulate a minimum user age of 13** and suggest that you talk about this during your Safer Internet Day teaching plan.

At the end of the performance you could run a Q & A with the cast and audience. This would be an ideal opportunity to highlight the importance of thinking about the images you post online. Using Sam's past, present and future experience, you can look at the following:

CAN YOU GIVE EXAMPLES OF WHERE IN THE PLAY ...

1. We see images being used in a positive way?

- With the help of his friends, Sam is encouraged to take a screenshot of the messages sent from the online gamer who asks to meet up.
- Sam helps Lara find her pet cat by asking his mum to post a message on an online community forum.
- With the help of Taylor's dad, Sam and Taylor set up a fundraising page to help keep the community centre open.
- Sam keeps in touch with his family and friends when he travels abroad during his gap year.

2. We see images being used in a negative way?

- Sam's parents post hundreds of pictures of Sam and often forget to conceal personal details. His first day at school picture states the date and school name.
- Sam sometimes takes and shares images without that persons consent.
- Despite seeing it as a bit of fun, Sam creates a MEME of Grace which hurts her feelings.
- Sam is aware that his friend Daniel is cyberbullying Lisa but becomes involved by not speaking up and sharing some of the images.
- Sam tells his future employer that he's too unwell to come into work but posts lots of pictures of him out and about.

3. We see people uniting to share images?

- Sam works with his mum to sets up a group page to help find Lara's cat.
- Taylor and Sam create an online fundraising campaign to draw people in to help save their local community centre.

- Mr Jones, Sam's future employer hints that Sam goes on to demonstrate that he unites with his online community to be the change for a better internet. What do you think he might do to achieve this?

Key points

Do:

Always ask permission before you upload or share a picture of someone

Check with an adult if you want to try and set up a fundraising page or anything similar. The minimum age for these is generally 18.

Wait until you are 13 to have a social media account. That way, you won't see anything not meant for you, and you won't break the terms and conditions of the site.

Make sure you keep your **personal** details **private** when taking an image you plan to share.

Always tell an adult if someone or something makes you feel uncomfortable or worried.

Be cautious if you create a *meme* of someone as a joke as it could actually really hurt their feelings.

Do Not:

Use social media before the age of 13 as most sites stipulate this as a minimum user age. If you are under 13 and have a social media account, make sure to let your parents know about it.

Remain silent if you know someone is being cyberbullied. How would you feel if that was happening to you? Be an upstander and not a bystander.

Upload an image of anyone without their consent.

Create a negative digital footprint for yourself. Stop and think before you send.