Speaking and Listening – Level 8

Sample 1 Group discussion: Life lessons in *The Giver* by Lois Lowry’s

Extract 2

Note: Students have been numbered left to right from 1 to 6.

STUDENT 1 We believe that another important life lesson is the importance of perspective.

STUDENT 2 Yes.

And the … Lois Lowry’s allegory, *The Giver*, is … shows perspective in a way where the society Jonas lives in is very manipulative and the people of the community were … their perspective and their point of view and how they view things was taken away from them completely.

They didn’t get to choose, as everyone said, what they do. They don’t get to choose what they see, because the Chief Elder has taken that away from them and said, ‘No, this is what you see, this is how you see it, and this is what must happen.’

And perspective is a very important thing in life—our life—in general. It is how we view things. It is how we interpret things. And it, um … puts a …

STUDENTS LAUGHS

STUDENT 3 It just puts, like … It gives us, you know, freedom.

STUDENT 2 And it kind of governs how we do things and how we act and their right to do that was just completely taken from them.

And, like, [name redacted], for an example. His perspective on climate change is that it doesn’t exist and that is just completely wrong and…

STUDENT 3 It steals, like, from our future as well.

STUDENT 2 Yeah.

STUDENT 3 If you don’t think that climate change exists, what is it going to do for Australia’s, you know, future generation?

STUDENT 4 So, you’re saying that our world, their world, is in jeopardy because no-one is able to have their own view on things?

STUDENT 2 Yeah, yeah.

STUDENT 1 Jonas, the main protagonist, has the ability to see beyond. This basically allows him to view our world as it is right now, with colour, music and emotions. It separates him from the rest of the community because instead of seeing black and white, both metaphorically and literally, he sees colours and has the ability to experience, um …

STUDENT 3 What we see today.

STUDENT 2 Yeah.