Speaking and Listening – Level 8

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

Extract 3

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

STUDENT 4 Moving on to our next life lesson.

STUDENT 6 Which is the importance of history and truth.

And the importance of history is if you have history, you know what happened, so you won’t really do it again. It’s like using your prior knowledge to act upon … like, make decisions right now based on what has happened before so it doesn’t happen again.

So, it’s like when you do something wrong, you won’t do it again because you know that it’s, like, the wrong thing and there’s always gonna be, like, a consequence. So if there’s no history, how can you improve? So there’s no way that a society can improve or benefit …

STUDENT 3 Develop.

STUDENT 6 Yeah, develop, or … So, there’s no benefit … benefits to having no history or anything like that.

STUDENT 5 Um … There is a movie of *The Giver*. It’s not very successful but it was … it did show … explain life lessons very well throughout it, especially at the end, when the memories are released. A lot of the citizens realise that their actions, like, need to be, like, recognised. They need to look back at history and, like, see, like, what was wrong and how they can improve. And they realise that their community is a dystopia, because they may realise in the future that the elders are killing innocent people.

So … And another life lesson that is taught throughout it is having good and bad experiences, um ... like, experiencing, like, heartbreak, um … and, like, just any bad experience, and to learn from that bad experience.

STUDENT 4 To make good experiences. Yeah.