**GROUP FIVE: Sylvia**

Sylvia is the only character who sees Truman for who he really is. Sylvia, a minor character, unexpectedly catches Truman’s eye during a festival.

Sylvia tries to reveal the truth about Seahaven to Truman by saying to him “Listen to me, everybody knows about it, everybody knows everything you do. They're pretending Truman. Do you understand? Everybody's pretending”. A car then races down the beach and a man posing as her father comes to take her away in the car and says to Truman:

“Schizophrenia… she has episodes…we've tried everything, hypnotism, everything, shock therapy...Don't worry. Don't worry! You're not the first. You're not the first….She brings all her boyfriends down here…”

1. We know that Sylvia is not “insane”, rather, she is trying to reveal the truth to Truman. Do you think the maker of the film is trying to say anything about mental illness and those whom we regard as “crazy” in our society?

While Sylvia's 'father' dismisses her statements as delusional, Truman devotes the next decade or so to trying to find this girl, trying to recreate her face from fashion magazine models whenever he thinks no one is looking.

1. What do the “eyes” that Truman cuts out of the magazines symbolise?

1. What does the face that Truman makes, cut and paste from magazine clippings, symbolise?
2. List five “lies” that Truman identifies as he develops awareness of the his environment.

When the journalist interviews Christof, Syliva calls and the following conversation ensues (happens):

"Hi Christof, I'd just like to say one thing. You're a liar and a manipulator and what you've done to Truman is sick!" *(Sylvia)* . . .

"I have given the chance for Truman to lead a normal life. The world, the place you live in, is the sick place. Seahaven is the way the world should be." *(Christof)*

"He's not a performer, he's a prisoner. Look at him, look at what you've done to him!" *(Sylvia)*

1. Is Christof correct when he says that the real world is the “sick” place? For example, is it ever possible to completely avoid the problems that human beings come across in life such as dissatisfaction with life, relationships and unfulfilled dreams?
2. Describe the ethics of the journalist giving the interview. Is it ethical journalism?

Sylvia becomes part of a “Free Truman” movement.

1. Do you think that in the “real world” of the film there would have been support for the “Free Truman” movement? Explain your reason.

You are to answer the questions above in your expert groups and then provide a five sentence summary to your home group of your discussion and findings.