

Dear 18 Folk who have been working with Gill,

It is both strange and exciting to be working with you for the second week of your course. In fact it is a new animation experience for me....

Strange because at a certain symbolic level you are here in the same space in which you worked with Gill and in which so many rich things happened last week....yet she is somewhere else. In her place there is this unknown quantity, this bizarre cuckoo, this maleness and therefore otherness to most people in the group who are female.

Exciting for me because I have to somehow come in and carry on with work of which I have not been part. It is like going to a new country where you have never set foot before and knowing that you have a total ignorance of its recent history. This feels cheeky and a bit scary. It is made even more complex by the fact that I have already worked with Andre and Sachiyo on the NLP course, with him for one week and with her for two.

I suppose that your awareness and my awareness of the nature of the symbolic and group problem is already a first step towards its solution.

Should anybody feel like starting a correspondence with me I would be delighted to read what you write and to reply to it. This is a major technique I use with my language classes- it is a brilliant way of getting second language learners to really stretch their wings on the page. Do any of you find this technique useful? I learnt it from the inspired writings of Herbert Kohl, a New York primary teacher. This was the main technique he used to get recalcitrant Puerto Rican immigrant kids to set words down on paper. I find it works across my classes from ambivalent teenagers to seasoned businessmen.

Listening (looking) forward to hear from you


Mario