

**Extract from dialogue around ‘Is it possible for us to imagine the experience of trench warfare?’ in Lesson 3 (Lloyd Brown)**

<b>Edited transcript</b>
Dillon: We don't actually know if that's true because it's a DVD. So because we weren't actually alive, some of that might be true, but we can't be sure. [...]
Ricky: It's like when you imagine winning the lottery. . . it wouldn't necessarily be like what you think.
Teacher (T): Very good. I think that's quite a nice analogy. I mean it's different, but it's almost beyond our experience. Alex?
Alex: I think there are probably bits we can imagine and bits we can't.
T: All right. Robert, can I take the point that you made? It links in with what Alex said. Listen to this. This is Robert's view.
Robert: You can imagine what it would look like, but you can't imagine what it would feel like or how you would be feeling.
T: Ok. What do you think about that Owen? [repeats Robert's comment] I quite like that.
Owen: Yes, because on the DVDs or on the films and the poems and stuff, it explains and you can see what it looks like, in wasteland, and you're both in trenches, but you wouldn't know what it was like to go ages without food or water.
T: Ok, go on Ricky.
Ricky: That's partially true, but you wouldn't know what it would be like to be shot by a bullet or be bombed or something. You wouldn't see what it looked like either.
T: Owen is nodding his head there in agreement with what you were saying. . . You know, this notion about it's something completely outside of our experience. . . I like that Robert and it wasn't what I'd thought of. I thought I was going to write something else on here. Yes 'what it looked like' [ <i>writing on board</i> ], not 'what it felt like'. You are then able to bring in all the things that Felix and Adill or Joe or whoever it was who came up with this idea [ <i>indicates the first three categories listed on the IWB: see Fig. 5</i> ]. So yes there are some things we can describe about it, but the actual feelings are rather difficult. Any other points to make here? Felix?
Felix: Well, about the feelings, every single person's experience with it would be different... Everybody's got different feelings towards the war... and you wouldn't know what anyone would have felt like, even if we were there, you would only know what you felt like.
T: Yes, can we ever achieve a common understanding of anything?