

TRUE STORIES ABOUT DRUGS

It sounds like a tabloid. But what's wrong with "The News of the World" is not the stories - which are sometimes riveting - but the way they're handled, and the angle that's taken. Because they attract powerful feelings, drugs also attract people selling simple solutions – like "Just Say No" and "The War against Drugs". Simply by combining different stories, this collection says that it's a complex issue. Drugs affect personal health and development, but they also have an impact on families and neighbours. Drugs can threaten a teenager's pocket, but they are also a business that makes millions, and cuts across national boundaries.

True, dramatic stories, clearly handled, make good reading material. Many boys have a preference for non-fiction, and the stories here are short and varied. They are adult in their content, but accessible to most school pupils so far as reading difficulty is concerned. In a silent reading session, they could be an attractive option for a lot of teenagers, especially (but not only) boys. They concern men and women, in different countries, approached from a variety of angles.

This resource contains stories about the experiences of a variety of characters. Many of the stories outlined here could encourage students to write their own stories, poems and plays, or act as a stimulus for improvised group drama. They could also provide the basis for group discussion on the effects of drugs, or research material for projects or presentations.

- (a) the mother
- (b) the expert
- (c) the family
- (d) the detective and the crook
- (e) the smuggler
- (f) the insider
- (g) the granny
- (h) the actor
- (i) the casualty
- (j) the reporter