

# The Burger Man

## Gaia Holmes

### Teacher's Notes and Key

#### Before Watching and Listening

1. The students are asked to reflect on the background to the poem, and the pictures offer a major clue. This might be a starting point for classes who need encouragement to express themselves or describe.

The references to 'ketchup and blood' have a direct reference to fast food and violence (on the streets) but there is also a more subtle reference by this twinning of words in that there is a hint of it all being theatre (ketchup AS blood) and that a bit of acting might also be going on.

2. In the second question, the students are being asked to speculate. There are no right or wrong answers, but there will probably be a tendency to talk of unpleasant, violent types who are abusive to the wagon owner.

#### After Watching and Listening

1.



Order	S/shot	Scene
1	b	Drunks, people looking for fights or sex are the customers
2	e	Verbally threatened by two 'yobs' wanting free burgers. They rock the wagon leading to .....
3	c	...the Burger Man dreaming of the Aegean Sea
4	a	Petals fall on the burgers when cooking, adding a slight flavour.
5	d	The Burger Man is fine.

2. 'Drunken masses'; people showing off, looking for trouble and sex.

3. Allow students to speculate, but guidance as follows:

- He is used to the situation and learned how to cope with it
- He might well be from the Aegean, perhaps a Greek or Turkish immigrant. On the other hand (though less likely) he has been on holiday to the Aegean.
- He wasn't going to get into an argument with the yobs. Most people would say this was a wise thing to do!

4. Personal speculation. The poet – seeing the lights and the familiar face. Feels safe. At the same time she recognises the danger that the burger man puts himself in every night. Students might be asked to ponder this ambiguity.