

Activity 14: Discussion writing

Below is a model of a piece of discussion writing based on *Adventure at Sandy Cove*. It presents the reasons on both sides of the debate:

Should you keep a box of sparkling jewels for yourself or hand them in?

Is honesty the best policy?

Have you heard about the boys who found a box full of sparkling jewels? Their mum phoned the police and it was returned to its rightful owner; should they have kept it for themselves? We all agree that stealing is wrong but what about finding? Some people still believe in the old saying, 'finders keepers, losers weepers'. However, there are others who argue, 'honesty is the best policy'. What would you do?

Many people, including Rahul, believe that taking property that doesn't belong to you is wrong. Firstly, they argue that if you didn't pay for it then it isn't yours. Furthermore, they advise that mislaid property should be returned to the owner - or even to the police. Finally, and most importantly, just think of the owners who have lost their precious property. How would you feel if that was you?

On the other hand, others believe that if you find something, you should keep it. Additionally, many state that it is impossible to return a lost item; you don't know who it belongs to. Joe Smith (aged 10 from Devon) gave us his opinion: "I found those jewels and possession is nine tenths of the law." Ultimately, it could be argued that it is the owner's fault for losing the item in the first place!

Having weighed up the points both for and against, it is clear missing objects should be returned to their rightful owners. Therefore, their mum made the right decision. If you were to lose a precious item, wouldn't you want it to be returned?

★ **Now have a go at writing a discussion either based on *Adventure at Sandy Cove* or, even better, the story that you have written.**