Attitudes to others

En route to Buenos Aires, an unidentified member of the groups of Scottish immigrants on board the *Symmetry* wrote a poetic account of his voyage using the pen name 'Tam'o Stirling'. As the boat nears South America, Tam comments on the speculations among his fellow passengers:

They wondered what people the Argentines were,
Savage or civilised –colour, and figure,
And lasses resolved they would droon themselves ere
They'd gang without claes or be kissed by a nigger.

From: GRIERSON, William (n/d). "The Voyage of the Symmetry". In: Stewart, Iain A. D. (ed.) (2000) *From Caledonia to the Pampas: Two accounts by early Scottish emigrants to the Argentine*. Tuckwell Press.

Discuss

- What does the language used tell you about the writer?
- What do you think about the writer's attitude to other people?
- Do you think these attitudes have changed? Or can you find examples of similar attitudes in your daily life?
- Make a list of examples of prejudice you have witnessed.
- Can you avoid being prejudiced?

Now visit http://www.teachingenglish.org.uk/try/britlit/celebr8-levi-tafari, and download Levi Tafari's poem 'Celebr8 Diversity'

- **Add another stanza to the poem with your views on discrimination derived from your own experience**

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- **Set the poem to music or perform it as a rap with your friends**

Activities on 'Celebr8 Diverity' adapted from Ferradas, C. *The Value of Diversity Handbook*. Buenos Aires: Pearson/ Longman, 2009