Media programs, advertisements or news stories are constantly admonished by concerned educators and the general public about how females, especially young women, are portrayed as gender stereotypes to attract attention and boost commercial sales.

In order to support students and teachers in the examination and critical analysis of such issues, the Australian Children’s Television Foundation (ACTF) has developed children’s television programs and education resources to examine gender perspectives in the media. In particular, the ACTF television productions, Mortified and Lockie Leonard.

The main characters in Mortified (Taylor Fry), and Lockie Leonard (Lockie Leonard) have engaging on-screen personas and their experiences with growing up are treated with candour and humour in a uniquely Australian way. The productions complement each other and, if used together, can be instrumental in developing understanding of adolescent male and female perspectives on similar themes and issues. For teachers of Years 6-9, the productions provide examples of real life situations that can generate discussion of the broader issues.

The ACTF website has a free online resource titled, Understanding Gender Perspectives Through Lockie Leonard and Mortified (www.actf.com.au). This resource includes teaching strategies and digital clips that compare the behaviours, attitudes and opinions of the main characters, Lockie Leonard and Taylor Fry.

This educational resource also incorporates topical themes relative to the Values for Australian Schooling. Topical themes include:

- self-awareness
- relationships with friends and family
- bullying
- decision-making
- stereotypes

The activities and worksheets are based on sound teaching practice, referencing:

- Bloom’s taxonomy
- National Framework for Values Education in Australian Schools
- Australian curriculum for English
- Media studies from each Australian state and territory

The ACTF productions promote positive male and female role models who are self-determined, healthy, strong minded and independent thinkers and who show empathy and compassion for those who are different.
Other ACTF programs and resources relevant for use on gender perspectives include:

*My Place* TV series, *My Place Teachers’ Guide DVD-ROM* and *My Place For Teachers* website www.myplace.edu.au support primary and lower secondary teachers. *My Place* highlights the stories of 13 children through 13 decades (2008-1888) of living in the same house in Australia. The website and Teachers’ Guide provide information and teaching activities based on significant events and people in Australian history and politics, society and culture, science and technology that underpin the stories in each episode.

- My Place DVD, My Place Teachers’ Guide DVD-ROM and My Place book: $115.00

**Holly’s Heroes** (Middle years). All Holly wants to do is play basketball, but in a one-team-town that won’t let her play, and with a team manager who is a bully, she has to find another way. With a never-say-die attitude, and the help of an unlikely group of locals, Holly pulls together her own team.

- Holly’s Heroes DVD and the Clips DVD + CD Teacher Resource: $99.95

**Hating Alison Ashley** (Middle years). Based on the best selling novel by Robin Klein, the film explores the rivalry between Erica Yurken (Yuk)- a melodramatic teenager living in a chaotic house with a very unconventional family who believes she is destined for great things - and a new girl at school Alison Ashley.

- Hating Alison Ashley DVD - For Secondary schools, TAFE Colleges, Community groups, Hospitals/Prisons/Detention Centres and Public Libraries: $96.00

**Worst Best Friends** (Primary) celebrates the absurdities of childhood and charts Roger Thesaurus’ course through the minefield of playground politics and family issues. Important themes such as the diversity of family life, other cultures, peer groups and bullying are woven into the engaging stories, encouraging children to think about and discuss these issues.

- Worst Best Friends DVD Volume 1: $19.95

**Mortified** (Mid-upper primary). Taylor Fry is on the brink of adolescence, and she’s got a lot to deal with; a changing body, a flood of hormones, relentless judgment by her peers, even perhaps the stirrings of a first, unrequited crush. Although she’s a lively, smart lipped girl with plenty of courage and attitude, the truth is she feels as if she doesn’t belong. However, eventually Taylor must confront the truth - she is who she is.

- Mortified DVD and DVD-ROM package: $99.95

**Lockie Leonard** (Lower secondary). TV series and teacher resource DVD-ROM is based on the award winning novels by author Tim Winton. Through the eyes of the main character, Lockie, we view the world of an adolescent transitioning to being a young adult. He struggles with physical and emotional changes in his life, particularly his relationships with peers, family and girlfriends.

- Lockie Leonard DVD and DVD-ROM package: $99.95

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