

“Britain, Britain, Britain.” Are the characters in Little Britain representative of the people of Britain or are they just designed to entertain?

Little Britain is an increasingly popular comedy TV series. It addresses many issues in today's society with a playful and joking attitude. It was mainly aimed at an older audience who could understand the humour without being too influenced by the fake views expressed by the characters in the show. This was supposed to be reinforced as it was shown after the watershed but despite its 15 certificate more and more parents are permitting their children to watch the show; if not this children are going to bed later and later nowadays and this means they are watching TV later. So Little Britain's viewing audience is becoming larger everyday. This is helped by the fact that the show is shown on BBC 1 which is the main channel, the bench mark for British TV so people are bound to flick to this channel first.

One of the shows manly crude but highly popular characters is the fat teen Vicky Pollard, she is supposedly representative teenager. The lighting in the picture connotes that Vicky's good is behind her possibly in her younger years she was better behaved and innocent before she became an “evil” teenager. The character standing next to Vicky seems to be looking down on her therefore connoting that he thinks he is above her and her and possibly teens in general but the blank face expressed by Vicky connotes teens don't really care what other think of them. Also this “looking down” connotes adult's disgust at the teenagers valued dress codes. Vicky's clothing connotes that she likes to be noticed what with bright colours and but allows us to see that she would just like to fit in with her friends as she follows a trend. Her tracksuit make is Kappa this brings to mind the saying “kappa slappa” which connotes that teenage girls have very little respect for themselves and put it around a bit these days. Her dyed hair connotes trying to keep up with fashion or possibly trying to hide something, trying to hide behind her rough and furious image. Her aggressive stance connotes she is ready for anything society can throw at her in the future. The fact that she is not wearing school uniform in school connotes she will not conform to the rules of and she shows very little interest towards the book being held by the teacher connoting that she doesn't think she needs school, does not want to be there, does not feel she needs to learn more and that she already knows everything. All though Vicky may have some elements of being a representative teen I believe she is just an exaggerated version of today's teens. Compared to some of the show other characters Vicky is very politically correct although some of her comments verge on not being. Other examples of using teenagers to create humour are in the Catherine Tate show, fly girl however is a lot more representative of today's teens as her catchphrase “am I bovvered?” when she clearly is connotes trying to protect herself from the people who are trying to hurt her and trying not to let people see how fragile she really is and teens can relate to this more than some of Vicky pollards antics. Matt Lucas and David Walliams may have created this character to help teens laugh at older peoples views of them or to help show adults how laughable and stupid there stereotypical views of teens are and how unlikely these things are to happen in real life.

Another example is Dafydd “the only gay in the village”; He is not a representative gay as in general gay people do not dress shocking pink PVC outfits and make reference to gay sex every 5 minutes in real life. Dafydd uses his gayness to put himself into a box. But gay people in the real world are in a constant struggle to get taken out of this box and not be stereotyped. He is a much exaggerated form of gay for TV and is nothing like the majority of real gays. If we compare Dafydd to Matt Lucas a homosexual in real life there are no similarities in dress or attitude. Dafydd is a lonely man who is desperately trying to be different to everyone else and uses his fake gayness to try to do this (we can tell it is fake as if the other of a real gay relationship or situation arises Dafydd will reel off a list of reasons of why he cannot do this or it is not convenient) but in doing this shows how very hard it is to be different in today’s society and also in a way shows how people have come to except the gay community and more and more people are feeling less pressure so are admitting they are gay. He creates humour instead of being representative; humour is also created because of the amount of gays in Dafydd’s small village possible making fun of the amount of people that claim to be gay these days.

I believe that when it comes to the question of does art imitate life or does life imitate art that in most cases life imitates art. Little Britain is made up of ideas and people that like these ideas try to imitate this idea as closely as possible to gain the respect of other people that like these ideas. Although some art can imitate life on a more exaggerated level. For example well Vicky Pollard imitates some teenage habits as we know some do steal, smoke, or possibly have sex underage they are not doing this every single day without consequences like Vicky does (however there are a few very rare exceptions). Therefore life imitates art. Little Britain is just an exaggerated version of people’s faults or slightly abnormal points.

Little Britain does entertain me as the humour and punch lines do work because they are so incredibly in your face that it has shock factor that makes people laugh. Before our media lessons and analysing the sketch and script more I thought very little of the somewhat controversial characters and their habits. But over the past few lessons it has helped me realise just how offensive Matt Lucas and David Walliams characters can really be.