

# Activity Sheet 2.1

## Opinions in the Media

# Dover Express

Letters Page, 9 March 2000

On which planet does Gill Casebourne live when she appears to claim that we are not being hit in the pocket in supporting the many thousands of economic refugees and supplying them with luxury items such as cars, mobile phones and flashy clothing?

Does she think the tooth fairy is paying? The fact is that the taxpayer is paying and it hardly matters whether the money comes from council tax or income tax.

I resent the slice that is taken from my pension to pay for these undeserving people and I am not alone in this.

**D.I. Adams, Vale View Road, Dover**

As every council-tax payer knows only too well, we are faced with constant increases in this tax and ... Kent County Council does not usually see fit to inundate both local and national media with the reasons.

Given the fact that public feeling is already sensitive over the question of funding for the asylum seekers in Kent, I find it deeply offensive that our county council seems to consider this exploitation of emotion acceptable ... I cannot help wondering whether anyone remembers that other countries took in many of our children during the Second World War when this county needed help, or what has happened to the pride people felt in the numbers of children saved from certain death in Germany and Eastern Europe at that time. And all this over £3 in a tax of hundreds of pounds per annum.

**Ms P. Taylor, Priory Hill, Dover**

# Isle of Thanet Gazette

5 May 2000

Many of the so called 'problems' are perceived by racists in the area who see people as different because they look different.

They label everyone who is different as an asylum seeker and they blame them for everything that is wrong.

**Paul Rollins, Deputy Council Leader**

The amount the District Council pays works out at 41p per household per year towards asylum-seeker costs. This pays the 5% of housing benefit costs not met by the Government.

**Sue Wilson, reporter**

### Questions

1. What are D. I. Adams and P. Taylor arguing about?
2. What does D. I. Adams focus on?
3. What does P. Taylor focus on?
4. What extra information appeared in the *Isle of Thanet Gazette*?
5. Do you think Adams and Taylor might be able to come to an agreed opinion if they had these facts?
6. What do YOU think?