***Dr Who***

**Series 8 episode 2 Into the Dalek**

This episode looks at issues of good and evil

**Synopsis**

Rebel soldier Journey Blue is being attacked by Daleks when the Doctor saves her with the TARDIS. They go back to the *Aristotle*, a hospital ship now used for war operations. The Doctor is asked to help with a Dalek they have on board which has malfunctioned and this Dalek announces that the Daleks are evil and must be destroyed. The Doctor is intrigued: surely there’s no such thing as a ‘good’ Dalek?

Meanwhile, we meet Danny Pink, an ex-soldier, damaged by his experiences in Afghanistan, who has come to teach at the same school as Clara, the Doctor’s companion. Meeting Clara, there is an instant attraction between them, although their relationship gets off to an awkward start. In the TARDIS, the Doctor asks Clara ‘Am I a good man?’ She says she honestly doesn’t know the answer to that. She agrees to help with investigating the ‘good’ Dalek.

Some of the soldiers, Clara and the Doctor are miniaturised so that they can enter the body of the Dalek and try to find out what has happened. The Doctor surmises that it is not intrinsically good, but broken: its morality has malfunctioned. The Doctor communicates with it and the Dalek says that it witnessed the birth of a star; it saw beauty, a miracle, divine perfection. Since the Daleks want only to destroy that beauty, they themselves must be destroyed.

The Doctor discovers the Dalek’s damage and repairs it, despite attack from Dalek antibodies which claim some of the soldier’s lives, including Gretchen, who later sacrifices herself for Clara and the Doctor. The Doctor tells the others that the Dalek’s technology is designed to suppress memories and compassion within the living creature inside it. He is correct; when the Dalek is repaired it begins to destroy all the humans on the *Aristotle*.

Clara is horrified by the Doctor’s own callous attitude towards the Daleks and in facing up to him about it, persuades him to try and reconnect with the Dalek’s buried goodness. Clara goes to unsuppress its memories while the Doctor links his consciousness with that of the Dalek. The Dalek, linked to the Doctor, says it can see beauty and divinity, but also hatred for the Daleks as destroyers. It says it can see into his soul and concludes that it is not a good Dalek, but that he, the Doctor, *is* a good Dalek. After this, the Dalek embarks on a mission to destroy the other Daleks and protects the *Aristotle*. The Doctor is concerned by his encounter with it and its description of his own inner darkness.

Meanwhile, Gretchen awakens after her death in ‘Heaven’ to be greeted by Missy, who offers her tea.

Journey asks to go with the Doctor and Clara, but the Doctor rejects her saying that he wishes she had not been a soldier. Clara says she still hasn’t made up her mind whether the Doctor is a good man, but that he has the best intentions at heart. The Doctor’s behaviour towards Journey makes Clara more tender towards Danny when she returns to her own world.

**Issues for Discussion**

* Do you think it matters whether the Doctor is a ‘good man’ or not?
* What do you think the episode is saying about goodness and where it comes from?
* Are the Daleks made, rather than born, evil?
* What do you make of the Dalek’s goodness coming from witnessing beauty and divinity?
* What do we learn about the Doctor’s ‘soul’?
* Why do you think the Doctor saves and then rejects Journey?
* What do you make of the scene in Heaven?
* How do we distinguish what is good and what is evil?
* If we try to destroy evil, do we risk destroying goodness with it? In what sort of situations today might that matter?