

# Alien invaders

**AIM: To stimulate student creative thinking about weed issues**

**You will need:**

- a pretty weed,
- outdoor grassy area,
- a tape recorder, and
- a review of safety issues.

## Creative story telling

- Sit the students and yourself in a circle on a suitable grassy area.
- You may wish to make an audio tape of the activity for later reference.
- Present the students with a pretty weed.

## Explain that:

- This pretty plant is actually an alien invader (this is true).
- It has been caught hiding in someone's garden.
- The plant is making itself ready to take over Australia.
- Avoid using the word 'weed'.

Pass the plant onto the next person and ask them to continue the story with one or two sentences. Keep passing the plant and expanding the story until each student has made a contribution. If students get stuck prompt with questions like, "How did it get here?" "What features might help this plant to become an invader". Students are free to invent 'facts' about the alien.

This alien does not come from outer space.

Once the story is completed, ask the students what kinds of problems the alien invader caused in their story. Tell the students that the plant is a real alien invader. This alien does not come from outer space, it has come from overseas or from another part of Australia and it is a weed. Teachers may like to highlight which parts of the story students created approach the truth.

