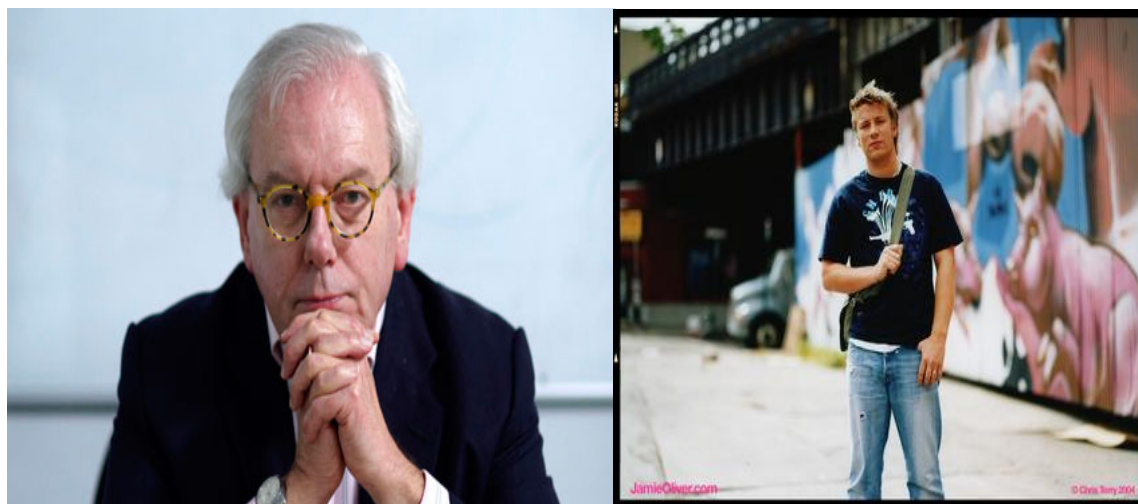


## Jamie's Dream School



There's some very bad behaviour in the history class at [Jamie's Dream School](#) (Channel 4). Not from the teens who have dropped out of conventional education with very little in the way of *GCSEs*, though, but from the teacher; the historian David Starkey.

What is the topic of the paragraph?

Find an opinion

Highlight the punctuation . , ;

He starts off what can only be described as a lecture - standing at the front, talking down to them; they're supposed to listen. Now that might work with motivated university students, but it's not going to engage this lot. And, not surprisingly, their attention begins to wander. So Starkey reminds them what they're doing there. "You are all here, I'm told, because you've failed."

What is the topic of the paragraph?

Find an opinion

Highlight the punctuation . , ; " "

Yeah, good one, that'll both motivate them and get them on side. It gets worse, though, because then he resorts to personal insults. "Come on," he says to one lad. "You're so fat you couldn't really move."

What is the topic of the paragraph?

Find an opinion

Highlight the punctuation . , " "

Oh my God, did he really say that - insult one of the class about his weight? I have to rewind it to make sure. Yes, he did. And then he does this really horrid I'm-so-pleased-with-myself laugh, looking around for approval from the rest of the class. He doesn't leave it there, either; he's on a roll. "Poor lad has got a problem. With Jamie's food, there'll be lots of dieting opportunities." Whoa! He's so pleased with himself he's not letting it go. It's an extraordinary performance. And there's no apology or anything. "They're destroying themselves," he says about the kids later. "They're destroying what they could be as human beings." The fact that his lesson was a disaster is the fault of everyone - the kids, the school, everyone except himself.

What is the topic of the paragraph?

Find an opinion

Highlight the punctuation ., " " ? !

Poor Jamie, he does his best to pretend this isn't happening. The idea was to get amazing people in to inspire these kids to learn. And what he's got with Starkey is a bigot and a bully, a horrid man who may know about the Anglo-Saxons, but who knows very little about the modern world or about humanity. And a poor teacher, too.

What is the topic of the paragraph?

Find an opinion

Highlight the punctuation ., " " ? !

Jamie is really the only one who makes any connection with the kids, respects them and earns their respect back. And also the only one who shows any kind of self-awareness. "We're so used to people being interested in what we talk about," he says. There's plenty to be learned at his Dream School - by the students but equally by the teachers. That just because you know about something doesn't mean you know how to teach it.

What is the topic of the paragraph?

Find an opinion

Highlight the punctuation ., " "

The kids are great, clever and dead funny too. Yes, they are difficult and have problems concentrating; it's going to be tough. There's always a hard part at the beginning of Jamie's shows, when he's up against it and against the world. There are tears then and there will be here, too. He always turns it around; I'm sure he will do again. But he needs to sort out his staffroom first. And begin by firing David Starkey.

Watch out and see if you will give it - a heavenly score of 9!

What is the topic of the paragraph?

Find an opinion

Spot the punctuation . , ; !

Your overall impression of this review

1. Did it make you want to watch the TV program?
2. How would you describe the style? For instance chatty and informal or serious and formal.
3. Did you find it engaging to read - meaning you wanted to read to the end?
4. What comments can you make about punctuation, eg Does it help understanding?
5. Which punctuation can you use *CONFIDENTLY*?