



## **Problem Page Activity**

Provide a selection of letters to problem pages in magazines without the answer. Alternatively use the examples below, separating the responses and put to one side.

In small groups of 4-5, give the young people a letter and ask them to think about how they would respond if they were Quaker agony aunts/ uncles, considering their Quaker values. Then compare with the actual responses from the magazines.

The number of letters they can discuss depends on the time available for this activity, but would suggest no more than 3 per group. Ask groups to feedback what they decided to advise.



Problem	Actual Agony aunt/uncle response
<p><b>Calling all boys!</b>            Every girl at school has a boyfriend, except for me. I've tried changing my hair and wearing make-up, but lads don't seem to notice me, Help!            Lucy, 13</p>	<p><b>Calling all boys!</b>            It's easy to feel left out, but chances are other girls envy you, because you don't have a sulky boy following you about! Happiness comes from within, so relax and enjoy being a free agent. Lads will soon pay you attention for all the right reasons.  <i>Bliss</i></p>
<p><b>Boyfriend gone bad</b>            Ever since I finished with my ex he's become hurtful and nasty. I'm still fond of him, even though he's making my life a misery. How can I move on?            Sarah, 16</p>	<p><b>Boyfriend gone bad</b>            It sounds like your boyfriend isn't coping well. But whatever's behind his bad behaviour, you must put your welfare first. Share your feelings with your friends and family, and approach one of your ex's mates to suggest that he does the same thing.  <i>Bliss</i></p>
<p><b>Tampon trouble</b>            I'm 16 and just can't put in a tampon. Also, when I tried to have sex with my boyfriend for the first time he couldn't get inside me. What's wrong with me?            Anon, 16</p>	<p><b>Tampon trouble</b>            Lots of girls struggle with tampons and first-time sex. When you panic, the muscles in your vagina tense up, which makes inserting anything impossible! Try relaxing and use a mini-sized tampon with some lubricant on it, like KY jelly. Also, making sure you are really ready for sex will help you relax.  <i>Bliss</i></p>
<p><b>He's taken</b>            I'm good friends with a lad at school. He has a girlfriend but lately I've found myself falling for him. We get on brilliantly and I know their relationship is rocky. I just can't stop thinking that I should make a move.            Laura, 15</p>	<p><b>He's taken</b>            You need to think with your head here. No matter how you view the lad's romance, steaming in will just cause grief all round. Instead, be a friend to him. If they split, offer him your support. In time, if he shares your affections, make a move. Then, whatever happens, you'll have shown sensitivity to all involved, which can only earn you respect.  <i>Bliss</i></p>



<p><b>Crushed</b></p> <p>I am a 2nd year student and I am really in love with my English lecturer. He is so worldly, witty and wise. This is not a crush, I just can't stop thinking about him. My friends say it is an obsession, but I really think that we could have a great future together. He doesn't know anything about this yet – and I recently found out he is married – but I think that we would really have a great future together. Should I declare my love?</p> <p>Yours, Neil</p>	<p><b>Crushed</b></p> <p>I think your friends are right; this is an obsession and a selfish one at that. You obviously couldn't give a toss about your teachers' feelings. How could you? You found out he is married and still think this worldly wise man would be better off with you - why? Get over yourself.</p> <p>For your own sake do not declare your love to him, because, by the sounds of things you will just be patted on the head and sent on your way. You could do so much damage from this crush just because you think you are a gift sent from heaven. This man is a highly respected <u>married man</u> so on top of all of the other reasons he must be straight.</p> <p>So my little pouffy mate move on, there is someone out there waiting for you to love them and wanting to love you back.</p> <p><i>Student Times</i></p>
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