Alicia is 14. She was recently the victim of a robbery. Here is an extract from her diary from the day of the incident.

Monday

Today was the worst day ever. I wish I had never got out of bed. I went into town to go shopping with my sister because it was my birthday last week and all my family had sent me money so that I could buy whatever I wanted. My sister wanted to look at shoes and I wanted to buy CDs, so we went different ways and agreed to meet back outside the main shopping centre. I went to the cash-point first and took forty quid out because there were a couple of different albums on the charts that I wanted to get. I walked away from the cash-point with the notes still in my hand, and a boy in a baseball cap, about the same age as me, asked me what the time was. I don’t like wearing a watch so I just used my mobile to tell the time. I felt a bit uncomfortable about all the money I had in my hand but I started looking in my bag for my mobile anyway so I could tell him what time it was. The next thing I knew, I was on the floor with a burning pain running up my cheek. It happened so quickly that I didn’t really know what happened but I think he punched me in the face! When I fell, I dropped my money and he picked it up and just ran off. It was broad daylight but he was so quick that nobody saw a thing. I can’t believe I lost my money. I am totally gutted.

Although it is not Alicia’s fault that she was the victim of a robbery, there are things she could have done to make herself safer.

Exercise 1

Get into groups of four:

a) Write down 3 things that Alicia could have done to make herself safer.

b) What sort of feelings do you think Alicia might have experienced during and after the robbery? Write down as many words as you can think of.

c) Who do you think that you can talk to if you are the victim of a robbery?

Exercise 2

In your groups, discuss ways in which you can increase your personal safety. Then, thinking about the information covered in today’s lesson, make a poster together that could go up on the wall in your school with the heading: ‘Rules of the Street’. Try to make your poster colourful, exciting and relevant to people of your own age.