

## Resource E: **ABDUL AND LADY SARAH, ACT 2 SCENE 4**

### Scene 4

#### **OSBORNE HOUSE 1891**

*VICTORIA is seated at a desk, writing, whilst ABDUL is standing to one side in a pose. He is particularly well dressed in a flamboyantly tied turban. A portrait painter is painting him. LADY SARAH is standing by VICTORIA'S side handing her papers to sign or read.*

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| ABDUL                     | As a teacher, I cannot help but question things I notice.  |
| LADY SARAH                | As a servant of the Queen, you should know your boundaries – something which you have entirely forgotten. You are an impertinent, arrogant man Mr Karim. And an absolute bore!                 |
| ABDUL                     | And you are most disrespectful to me, Lady Sarah.  |
| LADY SARAH                | Your opinions are irrelevant and presumptuous.   |
| ABDUL [to QUEEN VICTORIA] | Every day, as we speak, in Africa your subjects are gaining more land in your name. True, the Africans are not enslaved anymore but how can your power as a monarch be kept just and fair?     |
| LADY SARAH                | Slavery has been abolished. The African people are free subjects of the British Crown. We are not gaining land through war, we are making treaties with the tribal leaders of those countries. |
| ABDUL                     | Whether you call it war or making treaties, the result is the same. Many thousands of people are being killed  |
| LADY SARAH:               | Her Majesty's duty is to bring light into darkness, the very essence of our country's destiny is to bring civilisation to the world.   |