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Vol. 6 No. 1 March 2003
# TABLE OF CONTENTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Author</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Leng Hui</strong> (China)</td>
<td>The Role of Tone-Management in Improving Classroom Interaction in a Tertiary-Level EFL Teaching Context</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Rani Rubdy</strong> (Thailand)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Guy Cook</strong> (U.K.)</td>
<td>Old Dogmas, New Directions: Perspectives on ELT</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Madhupala Bava Harji</strong> (Malaysia)</td>
<td>The Storybook Experiences of L2 Children: A Spectrum of Motivation to Read</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Premakumari Dheram</strong> (India)</td>
<td>Focus on ESP vis-a-vis Critical Thinking</td>
<td>46</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Neil Heffernan</strong> (Japan)</td>
<td>Reports</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Bolaji Aremo</strong> (Nigeria)</td>
<td>Helping Students Read Better: The Use of Background Knowledge</td>
<td>62</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Rosabel Fast</strong> (Canada)</td>
<td>Teaching English as a Foreign Language: Some Ideas that Work</td>
<td>66</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Marco Luly</strong> (Italy)</td>
<td>Students' Perception of Effectiveness: The University of Manitoba's Academic English Program</td>
<td>71</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Flora Debora Floris</strong> (Indonesia)</td>
<td>Hints and Ideas</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Xiaoxia Wei</strong> (China)</td>
<td>Drama Warm-ups</td>
<td>81</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Kitipong Mattayasinchai</strong> (Thailand)</td>
<td>The Three Students (A Lesson Based on a Playscript)</td>
<td>84</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Nugrahenny T. Zacharias</strong> (Indonesia)</td>
<td>Learning a language Through The Explorative-Creative Way: Two Learners' Perspectives</td>
<td>88</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Bill Templer</strong> (U.S.A.)</td>
<td>Book Reviews</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Wil Knibbeler</strong> (Thailand)</td>
<td>Select Readings</td>
<td>92</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Willy Renandyia</strong> (Singapore)</td>
<td>Book Reviews</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Critical Applied Linguistics: A Critical Introduction</td>
<td>95</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Personalizing Language Learning</td>
<td>99</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Second Language Teaching and Learning</td>
<td>101</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>The English Teacher: An International Journal</td>
<td>103</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Announcements</td>
<td>108</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
THE THREE STUDENTS
(A LESSON BASED ON A PLAYSCRIPT)

Flora Debora Floris
Petra Christian University, Surabaya, Indonesia

In our previous issues we have already devoted space to some ideas on expanding dramatic texts. In this lesson plan, another book of the Oxford Bookworms Playscripts series is used as the basic teaching material. The interesting writing and speaking techniques offered here can, however, easily be adapted to any teaching situation.

LEVEL
TIME
TEXT

Intermediate
90 minutes

The Three Students, Scene 8 (Sherlock Holmes: Two Plays. Oxford Bookworms Playscripts. 1999)

BEFORE CLASS

Prior to class the students are asked to read Scene 8 of The Three Students.

You will need:

- Handouts / OHP transparencies (see appendix)

IN CLASS

1. The students work in pairs and answer the questions in Handout 1. Ask some pairs to report their answers to the class.

2. Distribute Handouts 2a and 2b. Each pair will only get one of them. The pairs are asked to continue writing the letter based on the opening sentence in their handout. After a time limit (e.g. 5 minutes), ask them to stop writing even if they are in the middle of the sentence.

3. Each pair passes their letter to the pair on their left. The new pair must read what has been written and continue writing the composition. The students are allowed to correct mistakes in the previous sentences if they find any. The procedure is repeated as in step 2. After about 20 minutes, all students are asked to stop writing and their “collaborative” letters are shared with the whole class.

4. Ask the students to work in groups of 4 and do the task in Handout 3. The students perform in front of the class.
Reference


**Handout 1**

**Work in pairs and answer the following questions:**

1. Why didn’t Bannister report what Gilchrist had done to Mr. Soames?
2. What did Bannister suggest Gilchrist to do?
3. Did Bannister get punishment from Mr. Soames? What do you think about it?

**Handout 2a**

Dear Mr. Soames,

I believe that Mr. Bannister *should not be punished.*
Dear Mr. Soames,

I suggest you to punish Mr. Bannister.
Handout 3

Work in groups of 4 and do the following task:
Mr. Soames has already received 2 letters from 2 different people. One of them says that Mr. Soames should punish Mr. Bannister, while the other suggests he should not. Mr. Soames is rather confused in making his decision. That is why he holds a meeting with his 3 colleagues. He wants his colleagues to help him.

Your task now is to create a short conversation among these 4 people. What will they say at the meeting? In the end, what will Mr. Soames do?

You have approximately 15 minutes to prepare your conversation. After that, you will be asked to perform it in front of the class. While you perform, you are not allowed to read anything.

Flora Debora Floris graduated from Widya Mandala Catholic University, Surabaya, Indonesia. She is currently an English teacher at Petra Christian University and is also pursuing her master’s degree in ELT at IELE, Assumption University, Bangkok, Thailand. Her main interests are promoting learner independence and creative thinking. She can be contacted at flora_id@yahoo.com