Enhancing the Creativity and Critical Thinking Skills of Gifted / More Able Students through Language Arts Activities

中華基督教會協和小學
C.C.C. Heep Woh Primary School

Experience sharing by Miss Jessica Chan
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CCC Heep Woh Primary School

School background:

- An aided Christian CMI primary school with a long history

- 6 classes per form (total 36 classes)

- Streaming (3 more able classes per form)

Our English Panel Members and our school-based curriculum

- We have a cooperative English Panel comprising over 20 members.
- We have regular preparation meetings on lesson planning.
- We have a well-developed school-based English curriculum.
- We have developed a systematic school-based task books consisting of two-levels, one for the average stream, the other for more able stream.

Incorporating language arts activities in the upper primary English classrooms

Level	Topic	Language Arts Activities
J.4	Rewriting the ending of Rapunzel (Creative Writing)	Rewriting the ending of a fairy tale
J.5	Rewriting the play script of The New Cinderella (Creative Writing)	Rewriting the play script of a fairy tale
J.6	Beautiful Words (Riddle Writing)	Riddle Writing, Similes

Sample of our horizontal plan for each module (J.6)

C.C.C. Heep Woh Primary School **2022-23**

Horizontal Plan . . . . . **J. 6**

Module 7

Level/Term	J.6 / Term 2
Date	16/2 – 30/3/2023
Unit/Topic	Unit: Fun with Writing Stories 6B Chapter 1 &2
Objective	➢ To develop pupils' reading skills and language appreciation ➢ To understand the hidden messages of the fables
Skill focus	Reading, Writing
Vocab focus/ vocab building skills	➢ Opposite adjectives antonyms ➢ Conjunction, cohesive devices ➢ Reporting verbs, action verbs
Forms & functions (modify if necessary)	➢ Similes"as…as", "is…like" → ppt the use of simile ➢ metaphor

Skills to be taught	Reading: ➢ Understanding the connection between ideas by identifying a range of cohesive devices ➢ Sequencing Writing: Write a story / story ending
Generic skills	Critical thinking
Output task	Write a story according to pictures
Text types used	Fables, riddles
Phonics	Ch 1 stress; Ch 1 ough (uff sound); Ch 2 long i sound
Things to be deleted	P.7, 10, 11, 12
Things to be added	➢ Worksheets: metaphor ➢ Fable (+story map), tell the story with the help of the story map
Catering for LD	More able: write a story Less able: write a story ending
Assessment	· Reading –fables · Writing a story using similes and language features

Our school tradition: cooperative learning / ability group in class

Our school tradition: The incorporation of IT in Education

The use of padlet/ quizzes/ some other tools enable instant online sharing in class.

What happens in our upper primary English classrooms?

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Lesson design

Activity: Rewriting the ending of the story

- It is an extended task.
- It requires students to think and analyse the structure of the story and the characterization again.
- They have to write creatively.
- They have to share in class with padlet.

Guiding Questions for students to think about:

- What do you think the prince said?
- Did he change his habits?
- Did he come back to save Rapunzel in the end?
- How did she feel?
- What did she say?

Characterization

Narrative Texts

Describing characters

Outside

Inside

Physical traits

Personality traits

What we see e.g. brown hair, a round face and big eyes

What we learn based on what the character says, does, thinks and feels

Use the Story Mountain to help you plan your story
Problem
Build up
Resolution
Opening
Ending

Problem
More Characters
Events
Build up
Resolution
Setting
Opening
Main Characters
Ending

Opening:
Setting and main Characters

Once upon a time;
In a tall tower;
A beautiful girl – Rapunzel;
A prince

Build up:
More characters
Events

Rapunzel saw the Prince;
Put her long hair out of the window;
Prince wanted to rescue Rapunzel;
Climbed up to the tall tower

Problem

Prince:
Black teeth – brushed once a week;
Dirty hair – washed three times a month;
Long fingernails – cut once a month

Resolution

Advice:
Brushed teeth twice a day;
Washed hair three times a week;
Cut fingernails once a week

Ending

???

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Creative writing task

Rewrite a play by replacing information and compose a new story ending.

C.C.C. Heep Woh Primary School
J.5 Term 1 Module 2: The New Cinderella

Name: _____ ( )Date: _____

Part A. Ben reads the original version of Cinderella online.

Cinderella

Characters: Cinderella, Stepmother, 2 Stepsisters, a page from the castle, Fairy Godmother, Prince

Narrator: Long ago, there lived a girl named Cinderella. Cinderella was kind and beautiful. When she was very young, her mother died and her father married a woman who had two daughters. Then, sadly, Cinderella's father died too and left Cinderella with her stepmother and stepsisters. They were mean to Cinderella. They didn't give her clean clothes, but a lot of housework.

Scene 1: Enter a page from the castle.

Page: The Prince is holding a grand ball in his castle. He wants to find a bride. Every young woman in the kingdom would come and meet the Prince.

Older stepsister: *(excitedly)* I am going to marry the Prince!

Younger stepsister: *(rudely)* Oh! Cinderella, your clothes are dirty! I don't think the Prince will marry you.

Stepmother: Cinderella may go to the ball only if she finishes all the housework and makes herself a new dress.

(Cinderella's stepmother and stepsisters set off for the ball.)

Part B. After reading Scene 1, Ben wants to rewrite the play. Help Ben rewrite the play by replacing some key information and write the solution to the problem of the story.

Scene 2: Cinderella goes to the garden and cries.

Cinderella: *(sniff sniff)*. I still have not finished all the housework yet. I wish I could go to the ball.

(Suddenly, poof! A sweet little old lady appears.)

Godmother: I am your Fairy Godmother. Since it is your wish, you will go to the ball.

Cinderella: But how? I have no dress and I am dirty. I have no way to get to the castle too.

Godmother: Run and get me _____ and _____

_____ from here in the garden.

Cinderella: Here you are.

(With a flick of the magic wand, Godmother turns _____ into _____

and she also turns _____ into _____)

Godmother: Since you are so kind, I will make you as beautiful as a fairy.

Cinderella: *(surprisingly)*. What a beautiful new dress and _____

_____!

Godmother: *(seriously)*. You can go to the ball, Cinderella. But, remember!

My magic will end _____

and everything will be as it was before.

Cinderella: Yes! Thank you!

(Cinderella goes off to the castle.)

Scene 3: At the ball

Prince: *(politely)*. May I have a dance with you?

Cinderella: Yes, sure.

(Cinderella notices that _____.)

Cinderella: *(runs quickly)*. Sorry, my prince, I need to go home now. Bye Bye.

(Cinderella drops her _____.)

Problem:

Cinderella lost _____.

Be Creative!

Solution:

(Please write it in about 80 words in paragraphs.)

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

Students share their new play script by doing a readers' theatre in class

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Beautiful Words

Creative Riddle Writing with Similes (like/ as…as) and Adjectives

My riddle

She smiles **as warm as the Sun**.

She is **beautiful like a peacock**.

She is **as gentle as a lamb**.

She is also very **kind**.

Who is she?

Cooperative learning

Brainstorm ideas for YOUR riddle. Write about **a classmate** or **a teacher** at Heep Woh Primary School in groups of four .

Cooperative Learning

Your ROLES:

Student 1: 2 adjectives

Student 2: Simile 1

Student 3: Simile 2

Student 4: 2 connectives

A worksheet is given for group discussion

Adjectives to describe the person

Similes to compare him/her

Other phrases to enrich the riddle

Connectives to link up ideas

Padlet

:Padlet
Jessica Chan • 1m
6L Creative Riddle Writing with Similes and adjectives
Our class wall for presenting our creative riddles.
She is as hard-working as an ant.
Moreover, she thinks learning
is as easy as pie!
Her cheeks are red like roses.
She is tall like a mountain.
Who is she?
By Miss Chan
0
0
Add comment

Jessica Chan + 30 • 26d

CCCHWPS 6L Creative Riddle Writing with Similes and Adjectives (April)

Our class wall for presenting our creative riddles.

My riddle by Natasha

She is intelligent like an owl.
Also she is as responsive as a leopard.
She is friendly and kind.
But She is brave like a lion too.
Who is she?

Add comment

(10)

He is kind and positive.
He swims as fast as a fish.
He smart like an owl.
He like to play volleyball.
Who is he?

1

Anonymous 27d
Andy Lau

Add comment

My riddle by Greta

He is very handsome.
He is kind too!
He is as hardworking as an ant.
He is also brave like a tiger.
He is a famous YouTuber in our class.

Riddle by Andy Lau (17)

He is cool like a pie.
He is as handsome as a paint.
He swim fast like a shark.
He is as clean as a whistle.
Who is he?

2

Anonymous 27d
Gary

Anonymous 27d
you are right

Add comment

Oscar(22)

He is teacher
He is good at sports
He is tall
He is strong
He is as gentle as a lamb
He is good at football
Who is he?

1

6L(25)魏靖樺 NGAI CHING WA 27d
唐老鴨

Add comment

She run fast like a house.
She is as gentle as a baby

By Anneena (11)

She is slim and tall.
She is hardworking.
She is also kind and helpful.
She is as busy as a bee.
She is as smart as Einstein.
She is our classmate.
Who is she?

Add comment

(05):

He is 6L class classmate.everyone thinks he is cool . He is good at swimming he also good at English .
Who is he?

1

6L(25)魏靖樺 NGAI CHING WA 27d
Gary！！！

Add comment

By Kris

He is timid like a mouse.
He is as naughty as a monkey.
He is short.
He is weak.
Who is he?

By Jason Chan (2)

He is tall like a mountain.
He is as hard-working as a ant.
He is very strong too.
Who is he?

1

Anonymous 27d
Andy Lau

Add comment

Allen

He swims fast like a shark and as tall as a mountain.
He jumps as high as a rabbit.
He is as smart as an owl too!
He always win in a swimming competition.
Who is he???

Add comment

My riddle by Alvin (06)

He is tall like a mountain.
He runs as fast as a cheetah.
He jumps as high as a mountain.
He is also as strong as a cow.
He is very good at Physical Education.
Moreover, he always wins the high jump, long jump and running

By coco(15)

She is gentle,clever,kind and pretty.
She is as gentle as a lamb.
She is clever like an owl too.
Who is she?

Add comment

by carynn 4

He is as free as bird,so he is naughty like a monkey.
He is as funny as a goose and his hair is messy like a bird nest.

Who is he?

Add comment

By Hysan

She is hard like an ant.
She is as clever as an owl.
She always smile at everyone.
She always gets the highest results.
She is friendly.
Who is she?

1

Anonymous 27d
Greta

Peer Assessment Checklist

❁ We have listened to ***Group*** _____ to read their riddle.

Group _____ has made good use of			
1. two adjectives			
2. verbs			
3. two connectives			
4. two similes			
5. other phrases			
6. They have written a riddle with a title and the writer's name.			
7. They have presented the riddle clearly and loudly.			
8. They have presented with feeling.			

Conclusion: Why ELA activities?

What are the benefits of incorporating the language arts activities in the English classrooms?

English Language Arts activities enable students to learn material faster and more effectively. ELA activities help students think critically and abstractly about information. Additionally, communication during class discussions and in essays teaches valuable soft skills that students will carry with them throughout their lives.

Conclusion: tips for teachers

1. Lesson objectives must be clear and feasible.
2. Lesson procedures must be well-prepared.
3. The activities designed should be open-ended.
4. The activities designed should be varied.
5. English teachers need to be creative too.

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