

В КОПИЛКУ УЧИТЕЛЯ*Teaching Literature in the Classroom*

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*It is books that are the key to the wide world,
if you can't do anything else, read all that you can.*
Jane Hamilton

There are some myths about teaching literature in EFL classes not as a separate subject but as a part of general English:

- literature is too difficult for EFL learners
- literature can be used only with advanced learners
- only classics should be used
- using literature is time consuming
- literature in English will turn learners against all literature

Literature in the language classroom can be what John McRae calls literature with small "l" – popular fiction, fables, and song lyrics. Abridged and simplified versions may be used to encourage learners to progress to the original texts.

But it is worth giving the students pieces of literature because:

- literature is highly motivating and encourages personal involvement
- literature provides vivid contexts for language acquisition and helps learners develop language awareness
- literature enables them to become more confident and competent readers
- literature provides a real-world reading experience in the classroom
- literature brings the reality of other culture or cultures in the classroom

- literature shows ways in which language can be used creatively to express feelings

How to present literature in the classroom?

- maximize pre-reading activities through warm-ups, prediction tasks to motivate the students
- draw students' attention to language peculiarities, which help them to better understand the piece of literature
- provide frameworks for creative responses, give students opportunities to express themselves, inviting them to analyze and give critical response to the text

These are the possible recommendations how to explore a famous fairy tale:

- content (what happens and why)
- language (grammar and lexis)
- personal response (what your point of view)
- culture presented

Why use fairy tales in class:

- the plot is known to everyone
- usually it is finished with happy end
- the characters are simple
- it is easy to retell

You have certainly read a famous fairy tale about Little Red Riding Hood and the Wolf. It is known to every child all over the world in different interpretations from Grimm brothers to modern variation by Roald Dahl.

Here are some activities to explore this fairy tale with students:

Activity 1

Introduce one of the famous writers Roald Dahl.

Name: Roald Dahl
Place and date of birth: Llandaff, Wales, 13 September, 1916, died 1990.
Favourite book: Mr Midshipman Easyby Federick Marryat.
Favourite TV programme: The News
Favourite music: Beethoven
Roald Dahl wrote:
Boy
Going Solo
Matilda
The Twits
Charlie and the Chocolate Factory
The BFG
Revolting Rhymes and many other things.

Activity 2

Read the fairy tale by Roald Dahl. Cut out the last paragraph and ask the students to predict the end of the story, and then give the students the real ending.

LITTLE RED RIDING HOOD AND THE WOLF

As soon as wolf began to feel
That he would like a decent meal,
He went and knocked on Grandma's door.
When Grandma opened it, she saw
The sharp white teeth, the horrid grin,
And Wolfie said, "May I come in?"
Poor Grandma was terrified,
"He's going to eat me up!" she cried.
And she was absolutely right.
He ate her up in one big bite.
But Grandmamma was small and tough,
And Wolfie wailed, "That's not enough!
I haven't yet begun to feel
That I have had a decent meal!"
He ran around the kitchen yelping,
"I've got to have another helping!"
The added with a frightful leer,
"I am therefore going to wait right here
Till Little Miss Red Riding Hood
Comes home from walking in the wood."
He quickly put on Grandma's clothes,
(Of course he hadn't eaten those.)
He dressed himself in coat and hat.
He puts on shoes and after that
He even brushed and curled his hair,
Then sat himself in Grandma's chair.
In came the little girl in red.

She stopped. She stared. And then she said,
"What great big ears you have, Grandma."
"All the better to hear you with," the Wolf replied.
"What great big eyes you have, Grandma,"
Said Little Red Riding Hood.
"All the better to see you with," the Wolf replied.
He sat there watching her and smiled.
He thought, I am going to eat this child.
Compared with her old Grandma
She's going to taste like caviar.
Then Little Red Riding Hood said, "But Grandma,
What a lovely great furry coat you have on."
"That's wrong!" cried Wolf. "Have you forgot
To tell me what BIG TEETH I've got?
Ah, well, no matter what you say,
I am going to eat you anyway."
The small girl smiles. One eyelid flickers.
She whips a pistol from her knickers.
She aims it on the creature's head
And bang, bang, bang, she shoots him dead.
A few weeks later, in the wood,
I came across Miss Riding Hood.
But what a change! No cloak of red,
No silly hood upon her head.
She said, "Hello, and do please note
My lovely furry wolfskin coat."



Activity 3

Ask the students to compare the fairy tale with the traditional tale they know.

Activity 4

You can look at the tale from the language point of view.

a) Ask your students to write as many adjectives as they can to describe Little Red Riding Hood and Wolf.

For example:

beautiful, good-looking, graceful, pretty, tall, short, careful, hard-working, aggressive, careless, practical, stupid, loyal, naive, friendly, confident, stubborn, trusting, clumsy, intelligent, etc. If the group is advanced you can ask to divide the adjectives into groups and categories.

b) Match the adjectives with their opposites.

| | |
|-----------|-------|
| tall | ugly |
| big | mean |
| young | weak |
| fat | small |
| beautiful | short |
| strong | thin |
| generous | old |

c) Ask your students to describe the characters using as many adjectives as they can.

Activity 5. False fairy tale

Give your students false sentences and ask them to correct the sentences.

1. Little Red Riding Hood lived with her mother, father, and brother in a big city.
2. She went to visit her grandparents who lived in the village in a two-storied house.
3. She took a big suitcase with lots of presents.
4. She had (or had been walking) walked for a couple of hours when she stopped to eat a hamburger.
5. She met a lot of animals in the forest.
6. Mr Fox wanted to eat her.
7. Little Red Riding Hood came to grandmother's house and killed the wolf.
8. They all lived happily: Mr Fox, Grandmother and the girl.

Activity 6

You can ask the students to write the story in different genres, for example:

- Detective story
- Diary
- Mystery
- Letter
- Report
- Newspaper article, etc.

Samples:**Little Red Riding Hood's Diary**

Morning

I woke up early in the morning though I had planned to sleep until midday because it was Sunday. I had planned to mix with my friends and go to disco but... my mum asked me to go to my sick grandma. Sometimes it is good to have a lot of relatives but it's boring when they are sick.

Afternoon

I took a bag full of delicious food and of course my mobile phone to be in contact with my mum and a Walkman to listen to music on the way.

Awful. No transport. I know the shortest way through the forest but I am not allowed to go through it because a terrible Wolf lives there.

Newspaper report. Forest News № 3, 2005

A terrible accident occurred in our forest. One of the leaders of the wolves' pack was found dead and unskinned. The suspect is Little Red Riding Hood who was seen in wolf skin coat yesterday. The police offer a reward of 1000 pounds for any helpful information.

A letter of complaint

Dear Sir / Madam,

I am writing to you to complain about the problem of the destruction wolves in our forest. As a Green Peace member I am very worried that the population of wolves is going down.

I think the problem lies in bad upbringing of the younger generation. The girl named Little Red Riding Hood killed one of the respectable members of our community and made a fur coat out of his skin.

I declare, it is not a point of hunting but a point of killing the animals.

You should take some steps to save the animals in our forest.

Sincerely yours,

Green Peace member

Small Bad Wolf

If you want to know more about Roald Dahl and his writings you can find information on the following websites:

<http://www.roalddahl.com>

<http://bbc.co.uk/arts/books>

<http://www.cupola.com>