

Issue II
January 2006

ADDING INTEREST TO OUR CLASSES

- A school is a building with four walls, and tomorrow inside.
- The greatest lesson a teacher can give is to teach a child to love herself.
- Learning is a treasure which accompanies its owner everywhere.

Having established common teaching methods and techniques in the English department at Manahil School, and having unified our concepts of language learning and teaching, it is now time to extend our teaching a little farther. And that is why we have made it our motto for this year: **What students learn with pleasure they never forget.** The stress on adding pleasure to the classroom is constant. Here are a few activities that would add interest to the classroom:

- Bring realia to support the lesson



- Have students work collaboratively
- Allow freedom
- Integrate drama/acting in your reading lessons
- Avoid being teacher-centered and shift to make your class more student-centered
- Have students connect what they learn to their life outside school
- Projects and hands-on activities should be integral in your teaching.
- Involve the students as much as possible in decision-making and the activities they would like
- Read to students and have them read books outside the reading program

Amal Farhat

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PUBLISHING STUDENTS' WORK

To publish students' work means to allow the student to share their written product with others. Some common ways to publish your students' work:

- Reading the piece of writing to class
- Posting it on the class or any other school bulletin board
- Publishing it in the school magazine
- Publishing in any magazine outside the school

ACTIVITIES THAT GIVE ATTENTION TO THE SOUL

A person is born in the world to create. How can we help our children develop in themselves these precious sparks of creativity? How can we turn our schools into workshops of wisdom and humanity?

“The more I give attention to a student’s soul, the better the child’s mind assimilates knowledge.”

What, above all, should we introduce to our children? What should we bring into their hearts and souls if not this ocean of spiritual aspiration, which has been recorded for us in the lives and work of writers and poets, artists and storytellers, composers and musicians, pedagogues and philosophers? Do we think there has been a shortage of them in human history? It is for us and for our children that they have sown the seeds of spiritual virtues

PAIR WORK

Working in pairs is a good step to improve your underachieving students and advance the high achievers. In this way, the low achievers will be motivated to write and read aloud because they are sure now what they have is correct.

To achieve this, students should be placed in heterogeneous groups (groups that have both high and low achievers). The idea is to give them a chance to read, speak and even ask more. After that, by the teacher’s spur, they will begin to

in their creative work and their lives.

Here are two basic goals of teaching:

- Be close to the child and touch the inner reaches of his soul such as his own home, family, friends, secrets of the heart, beloved animals, etc..
- Develop the spiritual qualities of the child: nobility, love, beauty, kindness, smiles, mercy, service to others, love of work, etc...

Activity One

For example, following the saying, “A tree’s strength is in its roots, and ours is in our friends”. We offer the following activity for internalization:

Draw yourself in the shape of a tree, all of whose roots are your friends. Use the drawing to tell each other about your best friends.

write alone; here the teacher should turn a blind eye on some mistakes, to make them feel better. A note is that the teacher is to never reject their work whatever the outcome is but to encourage them using words, marks, stamps,...

Beside that, high achievers will benefit from this experience and the information will be retained more effectively because they got the chance to explain it to their peers.

Activity Two

Following the saying, “The sun shines on people with light, and mothers shine on children with kindness.”

The children are asked to draw on the board the sun of their mother’s love, where each of the sun’s rays is one of the mother’s qualities, and then to think about what qualities appeared in themselves under the influence of that sun.

Some teachers believe that activities of this kind take up valuable time that is needed to meet the minimal requirements of the school program. I have found over and over that the opposite is true: the more attention a teacher gives to the soul of the child, the better the child’s mind will assimilate knowledge.

Nada Mojarkash



Mona Al Khatib

PRACTICAL SUGGESTIONS FOR READING SKILLS

Our aim should be to show students that reading in

English can be enjoyable and not too much of a struggle. We should also remember that students have different speeds of

Reading, as well as abilities to extract the relevant information in their first language. We cannot, then expect them all to acquire the same proficiency in a foreign language. I am not in the place to put teaching strategies, but I'd like to show important notes about word walls:

What are the goals of word walls?

- To support the teaching of important general principals about words and how they work



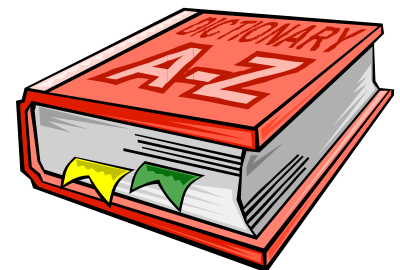
- To promote independence on the part of young students as they work with words and reading
- To provide a visual map to help children remember connections between words and the characteristics that will help them form categories.
- To develop a growing core of words that become part of a reading and writing vocabulary
- To provide reference for children during their reading and writing

Hala Abou Ali

THE IMPORTANCE OF WORD WALLS

I would like to emphasize the importance of word walls in our classes because through them students are able to revise new data that they have taken. The student is not just merely swallowing new information but he is able to think, analyze and respond to different issues. So, word walls

can manifest students' abilities through pictures and cards that are made by students themselves. At last, I would suggest that teachers meet once per month to discuss issues related to English language or just to share ideas concerning teaching English language.



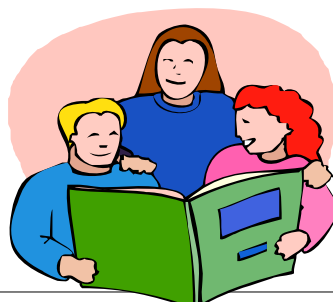
Abeer Khalaf

PAIRED READING

Do you think it is difficult for students to read in pairs for five minutes for example? At the beginning, it was very difficult to control the noise when my students were reading in pairs. I insisted on having them read in pairs. The second and third times, it was easier, until the students alone read in pairs when they finished the choral reading. Not only this, but also they are taking turns reading; one reads and the other listens and then vice

versa without waiting for the teacher to give instructions on who to start first. Try it in your class. Your students will enjoy it.

Alya yousuf

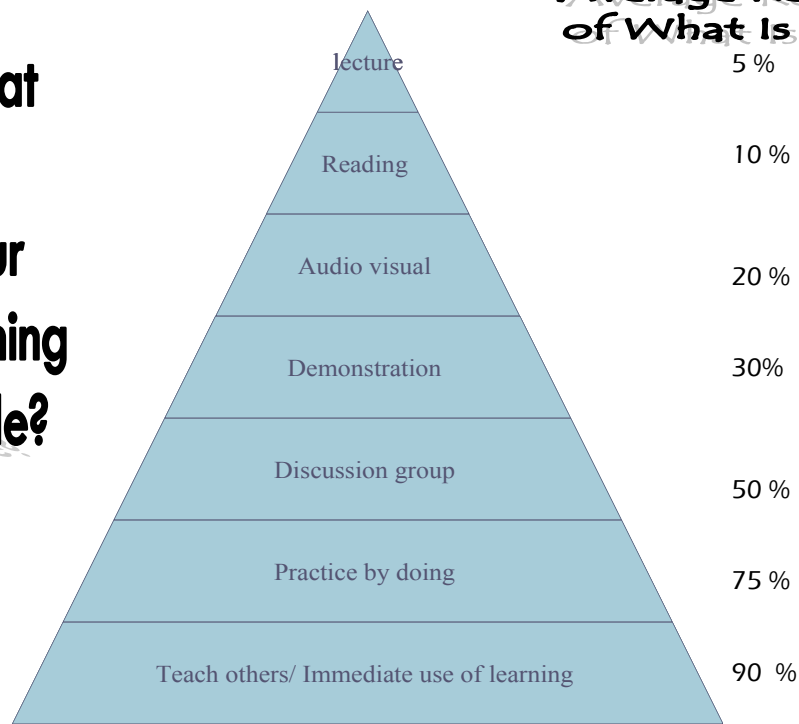


JUST FOR FUN

While I was reading the new selection in my grade 2 class, I asked students to follow me with their fingers. There was one boy following by his eyes. I asked him, "Where is your finger?" The surprise was when he opened his hands searching for his finger.

Alya Yousuf

What Is Your Teaching Style?



MANAHIL SCHOOL

“What is learned with pleasure is never forgotten “

COMMON DISCIPLINE MISTAKES

The following are some common discipline mistakes teachers might fall in:

- Loss of temper: yelling at students doesn't usually get the required results. Children are actually more responsive to calm requests and commands.
- Disagreeing on rules: Teachers must present a united front to their students when enforcing rules. Otherwise, they will quickly learn how to “divide and conquer”.
- Bribery: bribery is not a healthy or effective form of motivation for children. You want your class to learn right from wrong regardless of whether or not there is a reward for behaving in an appropriate way.
- Inconsistent Discipline: it's important that teachers are consistent with the discipline in order to avoid making their class confused about guidelines and consequences.

For example, if action A leads to consequence B, it needs to do so all the time.

- Unhealthy Praise: Be careful of praising your students too much or too little. Appropriate praise can be healthy and build self-esteem, but if over-used, it can leave the student feeling inadequate when he/ she doesn't receive it. **Give affirmation** for positive behavior and hopefully, your student will repeat the good behaviors that bring appreciation.