



Learning English at the Library

Photo story

Activities

Teacher notes

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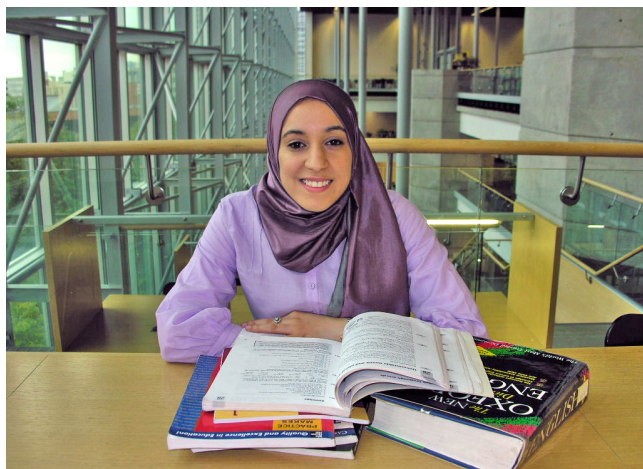
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Winnipeg Public Library, Updated on March 10, 2015.



1. This is Alla. She has come to the Millennium Library to find some material to help her learn English.



- 2.



- 3.



- 4.



5.



6.



7.



8.



9.



10.



11.

A. Dialogue

- Sahid:** Hi Jeong. How are your English classes going?
- Jeong:** Fine. I'm really enjoying my class, but I want to do more on my own to improve my English. So I came to the library to pick up a good fiction book. I've looked through a few of them, but they're so hard! There's so many words that I don't understand! And some of the books are so long and have so much description that I get bored very quickly.
- Sahid:** That's because you're in the wrong section of the library.
- Jeong:** What do you mean?
- Sahid:** Well, the library has a section called ESL and ABE where you'll find a lot of materials made especially for people learning English.
- Jeong:** Yah, like what?
- Sahid:** Well, they've got this neat series of books called Penguin Readers that are very easy to read because they're abridged.
- Jeong:** What does abridged mean?
- Sahid:** That means they're much shorter than the original books on which they're based because they cut out most of the description and other parts of the story. But you still get the main idea of what the book is all about. The good thing is, some of them are short enough that you can read the entire book in one or two sessions. I've read quite a few of them, and I find that they've really helped my vocabulary and my understanding of English.
- Jeong:** But are the books interesting?
- Sahid:** That's the best part. They're all based on English classics and other popular books, so the stories are really good. Once you get into the book, it's hard to put it down! And you learn something about English literature along the way.
- Jeong:** Boy, that sounds like a great idea for studying English. I think I'll try one.
- Sahid:** But that's not all that's in the ESL and ABE sections. They've also got a great selection of books on tape and books on CD.
- Jeong:** What's that?
- Sahid:** Those are books that come with a tape or a CD so you can listen to the story on the tape or CD and follow along in the book. Or if you want, you can just listen to the tape or CD. The library has a really good selection of stories, long ones and short ones.
- Jeong:** That's another good idea. I've got a CD player at home, so after dinner, if I've got nothing on, I could just sit back and relax and listen to a story.

Sahid: Jeong, you have a computer and an Internet connection, don't you?

Jeong: Yes I do. Why do you ask?

Sahid: Because there's another option you should know about. You don't even have to go to the library, if you don't want. You can just go to the main library website, click on the "Search a Database" icon, scroll down and click on the BookFlix, or the TumbleBook Library, or the Tumble Book Cloud icon. Then you just click on one of the Read Along stories and sit back and listen to the narrator, and follow the written words if you like. It's the same as the tape and book idea, only it's online. It's really neat!

Jeong: Wow! There are just so many options. Are the stories interesting?

Sahid: Yah, the Tumble Book Cloud have some books geared for teenagers, and I find those really interesting. Most of the stories on the other two databases are for children, but they're all children's classics – some of the most popular books for kids in Canada – and they're a lot of fun too! Many of the books are actually read by the authors who wrote them, which makes them even better.

Jeong: I've got a young niece and nephew in Winnipeg, both in elementary school. Sounds like they'd enjoy a lot of those stories.

Sahid: They sure would. Now another thing....

Jeong: You mean there's more?

Sahid: Yes there is. The ESL/ABE section, especially the one in the Millennium Library, has a great selection of grammar books and other ESL-related materials in the stacks. And on that Search a Database I mentioned, if you scroll down and click on the "Mango" icon, a whole world of English language learning opens up for you. The database has all kinds of exercises and activities for language learners, and it covers all the skills critical to language learning such as reading, writing, listening, speaking, vocabulary, grammar and culture.

Jeong: So if I'm ever sick and can't go to school one day, I can still put in a good day's work by going online and listening to stories and doing some grammar exercises.

Sahid: Right!

Jeong: You know, Sahid, there's just one problem.

Sahid: What's that Jeong?

Jeong: Now I have absolutely no excuse not to learn English. Between my English class and the library I've got all the resources I need.

Sahid: That's right Jeong. No excuses at all.

Jeong: OK then, since we're here at the Millennium Library, let's go check out the ESL/ABE section.

Sahid: Just follow me, Jeong, and I'll lead you to the fountain of Learning English.

C. Matching

These are some of the resources that you'll find in the EAL section of the library. Match the resources with their definitions.

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. Read along database | ___ collection of simple readers and dictionaries |
| 2. Abridged novel | ___ a story that can be listened to on tape or CD |
| 3. Picture dictionary | ___ standardized English proficiency test |
| 4. Audiobook | ___ a database that guides you as you read |
| 5. Dual language book | ___ a novel that is shorter than the original |
| 6. CanTEST | ___ a dictionary with pictures for definitions |
| 7. Adult Basis Education (ABE) section | ___ a book that is written in two languages |

D. Discussion

The EAL section has many books and CDs to learn other languages. If you had the time, what other language would you like to learn and why?

E. Answer the questions

Most Winnipeg library branches have books on CD to listen to. Listen to the following CD selected by your teacher and answer the questions.

F. Education Presentation

The EAL section of the main library has an education series in small book format called “Reading Essential Series”. Choose one of the books, study it, take notes, draw diagrams, and make a five-to-ten minute presentation to the class.

The Reading Essential Series includes the following:

The Human Body
Personal Hygiene
The Digestive System
The Skeletal and Muscle System
Physical Activity
Forecasting
Mountains
Oceans
The Water Cycle
Fossils
Electricity and Magnetism
Heat
Motion
Tropical Rain Forests
Staying Alive
Glass
Plastics

Genetics
The Nervous System
The Circulatory System
Nutrition
Disease Prevention
Geological Time
Deserts
Rivers
Erosion
Sedimentary Rocks
Light
Sand
Adaptation and Survival
The Cell
Textiles
Paper

G. Levelled Reader Book Report

Go to the library and choose a Penguin or Macmillan Reader from the EAL/ABE section. After you have read it, write a one-page report with the following information:

- the title of the book, it's author and the year it was published
- a brief summary of the main character(s)
- a brief summary of what the book is about
- why you liked or didn't like the book
- whether you would recommend this book to your friends or not (explain why or why not)

H. Activity H – Read Along Book Report

Read Along books are a lot of fun, and the great thing is, they do the reading for you! You can follow the words on the page as you listen to the story. Go to the library website at <http://wpl.winnipeg.ca/library> and click on the "Search a Database" icon. Scroll down through the list of databases and click on either the **BookFlix** or **TumbleBook Library** or **Tumble Book Cloud** icon. (Tumble Book Cloud is for older children and teens; BookFlix and the TumbleBook Library are for young children). Select a book and listen to it as many times as you want. Then report back to the class on the book you listened to. Tell them what the book was about, and what your opinion is of Read Along book that you read – the concept, the sound of the voice, the graphics, if any, etc.

Learning English at the Library: activities for advanced levels

Teacher notes

These photo stories and activities were produced to introduce EAL/ESL and new learners to the wealth of programs, collections and services of Winnipeg Public Library. The photo stories help visually guide the learner through common experiences at the library. The activities help reinforce vocabulary and encourage familiarity with library resources.

Each module presents a new topic to expand library knowledge, vocabulary and reading, writing, and speaking skills. Supplementary handouts and guides are also available for classroom and individual use. All materials are available in .pdf at winnipeg.ca/library.

Please note that library fines, fees and hours are subject to change. Content will be updated periodically to reflect changes to library hours, fees and collections. Visit the Library's website at winnipeg.ca/library for up to date information on the library.

Feedback is always welcome. Contact the Administrative Coordinator of Outreach Services and Marketing, Winnipeg Public Library at 204.986.4255.

The photo story and activities are suitable for Canadian Language Benchmarks 5-6.

Teacher Notes

The activities for this unit are arranged according to a suggested sequence for learning. The lessons target the following skill areas:

Reading (A) (E)

Writing (C) (D) (E)

Speaking (B) (D)

Teacher Instructions and Answer Keys

Activity A

You can have the students, in pairs, read the dialogue for the class as a whole. After they've finished, you can ask the class if they were surprised that the library had so many resources for learning English. You can also explain that the class will have an opportunity to explore some of the options mentioned in the dialogue.

Activity B

This activity will give the students some writing practice using some of the terms they learned in the dialogue. Encourage the students to be creative in making up the stories. When they've finished writing their stories, put the students in groups of two and have them read their stories to each other. Finally, the students hand in their stories for correction.

Learning English at the Library: activities for advanced levels

Teacher notes

Activity C

1. Read along database - a database that guides you as you read
2. Abridged novel - a novel that is shorter than the original
3. Picture dictionary - a dictionary with pictures for definitions
4. Audiobook - a story that can be listened to on CD
5. Dual language book - a book that is written in two languages
6. CanTEST - standardized English proficiency test
7. Adult Basic Education (ABE) section - collection of simple readers and dictionaries

Activity E

The Millennium Library and most of the branches have a selection of both Penguin and Macmillan Readers with CDs. Consult your local librarian for a book on CD which would be appropriate for your class. Then select an excerpt and prepare some listening exercise such as fill in the blanks, a series of questions based on the excerpt, or have the students write a short summary based on the excerpt.

This exercise will help familiarize the book and CD concept for the students, and also prepare them for the Levelled Reader Book Report (Activity G).

Activity F

Many of the Reading Essential Series books can be used for a 'process' or 'procedure' presentation activity in which the students have to present a process in a series of steps using the imperative form. Some of the books naturally lend themselves to a 'classification' presentation in which the students have to put the relevant information in different categories.

Activity G and H

The teacher may want to present either Activity G or H, but not both. However, it is good to make the students aware of the Penguin and Macmillan readers, as well as the online databases – BookFlix, the TumbleBook Library, and Tumble Book Cloud – because they are excellent ways for the students to learn English on their own. As noted in Activity H, Tumble Book Cloud is for older children and teens, while BookFlix and the the TumbleBook Library are for younger children and preschoolers. Students with children would certainly be interested in these latter series.