

Department of English Language and Culture

ENJOY

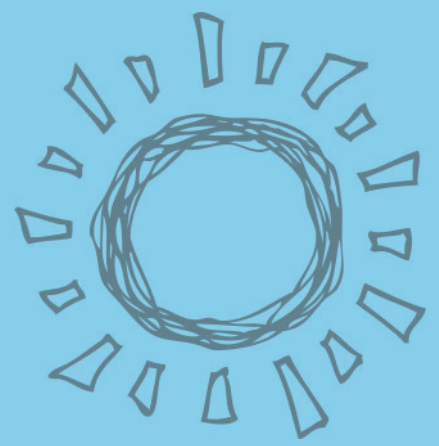
ENGLISH JOURNAL FOR YOU



Published online

ISSN 1339-7370
1/2023





Dear readers,

We are delighted to share with you some of the highlights of this semester, which have been full of exciting events and achievements for our department, students and teachers. Some of the events we organized include "Diversity in Education", which explored the importance of inclusive and multicultural education. We also participated in other social occasions, such as the American day hosted by the US embassy on the main square in Nitra, where we learned more about the culture and history of our transatlantic partner. Another event that we would like to highlight was the Design thinking workshop in Hidepark Nitra, where our spectators learned how to apply creative and collaborative problem-solving skills to community projects. We believe that these experiences will help our future teachers become more active, responsible and self-aware citizens.

We are also very proud of our students who presented their research projects and essays at the Student Research Conference and the essay competition in Košice. They demonstrated their academic excellence and originality in various topics and disciplines. You can read more about their work and insights from their classmates and Ph.D. students who actively participated in these events.

Our students also showed their intercultural competence and curiosity by travelling to different countries and sharing their impressions and reflections in their creative blog. We encourage you to check it out and get inspired by their stories. We also hope that more of our students will take advantage of the Erasmus exchange programme, which can enrich their professional and personal development. We are happy to announce that some of our Ph.D. students have already secured scholarships to study and conduct research in prestigious universities in Spain and the Czech Republic.

We are also impressed by our students' artistic talents, who shared their poems, songs, short stories and essays with us. They showed us their creativity, passion and ability to inspire future generations. We would love to organize workshops where we can all learn from each other different skills and understand more about the needs and expectations of both teachers and learners.

We believe that the best way to motivate our students is to show them our friendly and supportive attitude and teach them how to become independent learners. We want them to be able to pass on this "art of teaching" to the next generations of students.

We invite you to read the innovative lesson plans created by our bachelor students, where they used drama techniques to teach literature in an interdisciplinary way. They showed us their mastery of teaching methods and their enthusiasm for engaging their learners. We, as mentors, should therefore show them that we trust them and appreciate their efforts. This might be a way for our pre-service teachers to convey our message and show patience to their students while considering their individual needs, thus preparing them for real life and future careers.

Enjoy!



ISSN 1339-7370
1/2023



CONTENTS

I. University and Cultural Experience

- a) Celebrating Diversity in ELT (Bc. Barbara Kopecká) 6 - 9
- b) American Day in Nitra (Samuel Ďuriš) 9 - 11
- c) Design for Change (Lea Ester Ďuríková) 12
- d) Our Successful Students (Bc. Livia Furdová) 13 - 14
- e) Student Research Conference (ŠVOUČ) (Mgr. Gregor Vnučko) 15 - 16

II. Travel and Intercultural Experiences

- a) Interculturality (Daniela Verešová) 18
- b) From the Other Side of the World (Fanni Jakusová) 19
- c) Time Travel (Viktória Vörösová) 20
- d) What is Studying in Nitra like? (Oksana Kulabukhova) 21
- e) Discovering New Cultures (Viktória Benčíková) 22
- f) A Different Way of Life (Lenka Gazdíková) 23

III. Language of Art

- a) As the Gods Will It (Rastislav Macko) 25
- b) Endurance (A Poem for My Past Self) (Bc. Šimon Haspra) 26
- c) Short Poems (Soňa Červeňová) 27
- d) A song: Till The Sun Dies (Terézia Guttenová) 28
- e) The Question of Existence (Silvia Oravcová) 29
- f) The Austen Tale (Bianka Rusnáková) 30-31

IV. Encouraging Creativity in Pre-Service Teachers

- a) Digital Game-based Learning in a Secondary School Environment when Teaching EFL Vocabulary and Grammar Patterns (Samuel Ďuriš) 33-34
- b) Fiction is Fictionalized Autobiography: Nicola Yoon, Stephen King (Sabrina Vaszková) 35-36
- c) Lesson Plan: Salem Witch Trials (Terézia Guttenová) 37 - 39



1. University and Cultural Experience

ISSN 1339-7370
1/2023

Celebrating Diversity in ELT: Workshop Inspires Future Educators

On the 28th and 29th of March 2023, Faculty of Education of Constantine the Philosopher University (UKF) in Nitra hosted an inspiring workshop titled "Diversity in Education". This event brought together experts from various fields who shared valuable insights and knowledge with the attending students.

The workshop commenced with an engaging and interactive activity organized by the English language students themselves. We designed a thrilling Treasure Hunt for the children from Makovičky School, incorporating the valuable knowledge we had acquired during our classes with Professor Kováčiková. The Treasure Hunt was filled with riddles, fun activities, and games, leading the young participants to discover a sweet treasure. It was a wonderful opportunity for us to actively contribute to the event and represent our department.

Following the exciting start, the workshop continued with a series of enlightening presentations and discussions. One of the esteemed guests who honoured our department with her presence was Mrs. Dugovičová from Teach for Slovakia.

Michaela Stefanekova introduced a unique method of teaching reading called Jolly Phonics. Her presentation showcased the effective use of phonetic sounds and letters in teaching English.

Christèle Maizonniaux shared experimenting with "The Little Prince" in the English classroom. This presentation provided us with inspiration and demonstrated how literature can be an effective tool for developing language proficiency and critical thinking among students.



Throughout the workshop, Maria Podhradská, also known as Spievanka, captivated the audience with her expertise and insights. She shared valuable strategies for teaching English to young learners. She provided a model lesson that enriched students, especially those who are interested in working with very young learners. This experience has provided us with valuable knowledge and methods that are extremely useful.

During the workshop, there was a significant focus on addressing students with special needs, as this is a situation, we are likely to encounter in our future teaching careers. Additionally, there was a presentation about the effectiveness of incorporating theatre as a dynamic tool for teaching English, creating an enjoyable and engaging learning experience for students. Furthermore, the workshop addressed the significance of translation in the teaching profession. Mr. Boyd enriched our understanding by presenting various translation techniques, as teachers often find themselves in the role of translators. To add a touch of creativity and entertainment, he enhanced his lecture with an engaging song that captivated the attendees.



Diversity in Education workshop left a lasting impact not just on students but also on teachers and professors, reinforcing the importance of continuous learning and professional growth. It provided us with valuable knowledge, practical tools, and diverse approaches to teaching English. Inspired by the workshop, we are eager to become more effective and inclusive educators, enriching the education of our future students with a passion for language learning.

In conclusion, the Diversity in English workshop at UKF was a truly transformative experience. It brought together experts, students, and children, fostering collaboration and sharing of knowledge. The event highlighted the importance of diversity, inclusivity, and innovative teaching methods in English language education. With the insights gained from the workshop, we are confident in our ability to create engaging and effective learning environments, empowering our future students to thrive in the world of English language acquisition.



Bc. Barbara Kopecká



American Day in Nitra:

"Celebrating 30 Years of Friendship, Brotherhood, and Amazing Relationships between The USA and Slovakia"

To begin with, I am an avid fan of the American culture, style, and way of life. I have always dreamed of going to The USA and experiencing my American dream. I was browsing the Facebook page of the City Nitra when one unusual post grabbed my attention. I found out about American Day in Nitra! The event was held on Thursday, 18th May in Svätopluk Square. The event was free of charge and organized by U.S. Embassy in Slovakia, Fulbright Slovakia, and the BREAKFANS dance group. Everyone was welcomed.

FRIENDLINESS FIRST!

Soon after my arrival, the ambassador had a memorable welcoming speech. Firstly, he pointed to 30 years of great bilateral relationships between the cities of Nitra, Slovakia, and Naperville Illinois. Then he praised the quality of Nitra's secondary school institutions and universities. He cares about education and young people. He is a marvellous ambassador. Subsequently, he encourages citizens to ask questions. His Excellency and the employees of the embassy were cheerfully answering questions. After the ambassador gave a short interview to the media, he came to the citizens and spontaneously talked to them. H.E. Gautam Rana is a sociable, honest, open-minded, kind-hearted, and energetic person. I asked him for a selfie, and he agreed. I had a unique opportunity to chat with him. He said he loved Nitra, and the people were awesome. Thank You, Your Excellency!

FUNNY AND USEFUL QUIZ

Every visitor, who took part in a quiz, got an original American food for free, but that was not the most exciting part. Thanks to this quiz I practiced: 1. How to work with the information sources, 2. How to recognize a deep fake photo created by the AI. 3. How to distinguish between disinformation, misinformation, and hoaxes. 4. Tips and tricks to improve online safety. This activity masters my ability to think critically and read behind the lines. I was able to use soft skills in real life. This quiz increased my media literacy.

SUPPORTING YOUNG ENTREPRENEURIAL TALENTS

Junior Achievement Slovensko is a trustworthy, non-governmental organization supporting young entrepreneurial talents in Slovakia. This organization also has a beneficial partnership, with the U.S. embassy in Slovakia. This partnership is helping to develop a network of student companies across Slovakia.

On American Day, I met with the representatives of the student company named Coffee Punch, from Nové Mesto nad Váhom, they came to Nitra to present their products. It was a true paradise on earth for coffee lovers and their products were simply delicious. I was stunned that the U.S. Embassy in Slovakia supports young people's ethical entrepreneurship and allows them to develop their creativity, potential, and desire to innovate and to think outside of the box. I learned to look forward, not backward, and be optimistic about the future. These students were very polite, talkative, well-educated, empathetic, and truly marvellous people.

CAN SOLDIERS BE FRIENDLY?

Everything is possible in the USA. Even soldiers and military personnel can be friendly and of course, they were friendly! They prepared outstanding sporting activities, to keep our bodies and our minds healthy. The atmosphere was relaxed and I was permitted to take a photo of them. I had never seen an American soldier in person before, so I was astonished. This was the first time in my life. I met the idols that I admired in person. I am an adult now, but my teenage dream became true on that day. I was in the seventh heaven.



DID YOU KNOW?

English Teaching Forum is a quarterly Magazine for Teachers and learners of American English. It is issued by the U.S. Department of State. U.S. embassies and consulates are responsible for distributing copies of the magazine to more than 100 countries including Slovakia. The magazine is dedicated mainly to Teachers of Standard American English, but it's worth reading. It contains many useful articles related to the topics of 1. Inclusive teaching and learning, 2. Accessible learning materials, 3. Mastering presentation skills, 4. Effective class management during online classes etc. There are many useful tips and tricks for English teachers and future English teachers. Everyone needs inspiration and hobbies. My hobby is reading trustworthy magazines and exploring new approaches to teaching and learning. Honestly, I am a real bookworm, and I am keen on modern linguodidactics and pedagogy. Lastly, they gave me a free copy of this magazine. How amazing!

DO YOU LIKE LIVE GIGS AND VIBRANT MUSIC?

No problem U.S. Air Force in Europe and Asia has its own unique, talented, and professional musical ensemble. The ensemble is called Touch 'n Go. Their playlist includes all popular genres of American music (including, pop rock, country, rap, and beat music. Touch 'n Go had thrilling musical and theatrical performances in Asia, Scandinavia, and Slovakia. They entertained millions of militaries as well as civil audiences across the globe. Their concert at Svätopluk Square was unforgettable. They played the cover versions of the songs from Katy Perry and Whitney Houston. Their performance was breathtaking. They were true showmen and true showwomen.

"I enjoyed the whole event, from the beginning till the end!"

Samuel Ďuriš



Design for Change

New insights, friendly people, exciting activities but most of all, an unforgettable and rewarding experience. This was my experience with Design for Change during their meeting at Hidepark in June. I didn't know what to expect from this meeting, but as soon as I arrived, everything regarding the activities was explained in detail. To my surprise, the whole approach was very "hands-on", which I found very appealing as a young student of pedagogy. No fixed procedures or separating into authorities, just a sincere effort to show the students that it can be done without these long-established methods. Educators gave children the space to express themselves creatively, to look for solutions and to use their imagination. The activities were structured, but the children still enjoyed themselves immensely, as they were given the opportunity to express themselves "in their own way", either through skits or drawings. Even though I was in the role of observer and did not interact directly with the children, the experience was really fruitful. I got to experience how children behave during a guided activity that does not happen in a pure school setting. The whole process was very organic and relaxed, no one was forced into anything, and you could see in the children that they were genuinely enjoying the activities. Thanks to this I had the opportunity to get to know each of the pupils for who they really are. Each one of them had a really distinctive personality and I remember that to this day. One fond memory remains in my mind. When the children were asked what they would like to have at Hidepark, and what's a must-have, one little boy excitedly called out that he wanted to have three cuddle puppies at Hidepark. I agreed. No matter my age, I too want exactly three cuddle puppies at Hidepark! Thanks to the Design for Change methodology and their activity at Hidepark, which was called "I can!", I realised how important it really is to encourage children to develop their subjective feelings and thinking. In this day and age of technology, this is extremely important, and the activity only confirmed it for me. I highly recommend getting proactively involved in their activities, as this is an experience you will carry with you for a lifetime. As future educators, you have a unique opportunity to look into the future of education, which will not be based on mechanical repetition, but on real and authentic knowledge and feeling.

Lea Ester Ďuríková



Our Successful Students

On May 26, 2023, a ceremony was held in the Kulturpark in Košice to award the winners of the essay competition, which was attended by a student in the third year of Teacher Training of Teachers of English Language and Literature at the Faculty of Education of the University of Constantine the Philosopher in Nitra. Lívia Furdová won second place among 35 contestants, while high school and university students from all over Slovakia participated in the competition. The essay writing competition on the topic "30 years of the single market in the EU" was organized by MEP (Member of the European Parliament) Ivan Štefanec, in cooperation with the Office of the European Parliament in Slovakia, the Tunež, Púčik, Tesár Foundation and the Konrad Adenauer Stiftung.

The aim of this competition was to critically evaluate the functioning of the single market of the European Union while focusing not only on easily accessible facts but also on one's own thoughts and opinions. It was important that the contestants not only write about the advantages that the single market brings but also express what they think are the EU's biggest challenges and evaluate whether its representatives solve them effectively enough.



The event was held in Košice, where a conference consisting of panel discussions on the topic of recovery and resilience plan called Road to Recovery took place in the morning, and at the end came the awarding of the five most successful essays. Livia Furdová took second place and for her excellent work, she received a number of prizes, the most important one being a special prize awarded by Siegfried Mureşan, vice-president of the European People's Party, which is a four-day trip to Brussels as part of the Youth Week of the European People's Party (Youth Week of the EPP Group), which will be held in September of this year. In addition to an excellent result and receiving material prizes, Livia also managed to represent the school very successfully, as she presented herself in the competition not only as an individual but also as a student of our university.



Bc. Livia Furdová

Photos: The European
People Party's Group

Student Research Conference 2023

Every year, our department organizes an event in which students have the opportunity to conduct and present their research in front of the audience as well as the panel of experts. This year was no exception!

On March 30, 2023, our department organized the ŠVOUČ event (Students Research Competition), in which the students competed for the main prize (monetary award in the form of a scholarship) with their outstanding research papers.

We thank all the participants for their great input and congratulate the winners!



Winners:



1. Alexandra Guttová a Miroslav Kolár

*„Focused on Teaching Listening
and Reading Skills in the English
Classroom - Problem, Challenge
or Joy? “*



2. Bc. Iuliia Pasynkova

*“Proverbs and Sayings in Teaching English
at Secondary School Level”*



3. Boglárka Csámpaiová

*“Characteristics of Modern English in
Different Versions of a Selected Folk
Song”*





2. Travel and Intercultural Experiences

ISSN 1339-7370
1/2023



Interculturality

Have you ever experienced different cultures? I have, and it has helped me feel more at home on my own. It may seem strange, but encountering different ways of life and thought has given me a new perspective on my own culture.

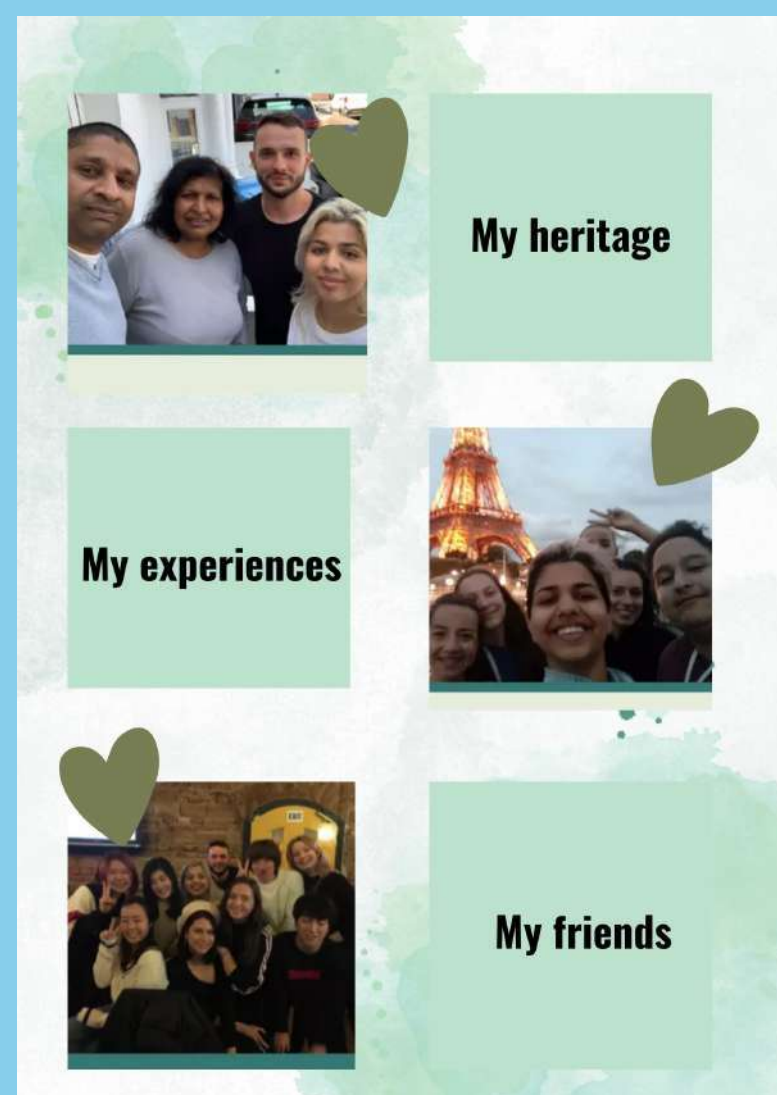
When we encounter different cultures, we become aware of aspects of our own culture that we take for granted or don't fully appreciate. It is a humbling and eye-opening experience that can help us develop a deeper sense of appreciation and pride for our own culture.

At the same time, experiencing different cultures can help us overcome feelings of isolation and disconnection. We can relate to people from very different backgrounds and cultures, which can make us feel more connected to humanity as a whole.

Of course, experiencing different cultures can also be challenging, but these challenges can be opportunities for personal growth and development. Overall, interculturality can be a powerful tool for personal growth and understanding.

If you have the chance to travel or interact with people from different cultures, I highly recommend it. It can be a transformative experience that helps you understand yourself and the world in a new way.

Daniela Verešová



From the other side of the World

In the 21st century, the world is so well connected, that intercultural experiences are becoming an everyday thing. I experienced my greatest culture shock during my travel to Morocco. Everything there was so different, and for starters, this was my first-time leaving Europe. Morocco itself is an interesting mixture, since it's an African country, but it's also predominantly Muslim. During our weeklong surf camp trip, we stayed in a hostel, where we were provided delicious traditional meals, cooked by the instructor's mom, and many other travellers stayed there as well, all of them from a different part of the world. For example, we met a group of college students from Canada, two girls from the USA, a bunch of boys from Italy and a girl from Spain, whom we sat around on the balcony and watched the sunset every evening. They shared details about what life is like in their country and also some historical facts, that people outside of their culture usually don't know and we did the same.

My favourite moment was when we were surfing, and I finally caught a wave all by myself and everyone else was cheering for me. At that moment, I truly felt like I wasn't there surfing with a bunch of strangers, but I was surrounded by friends.

Fanni Jakusová



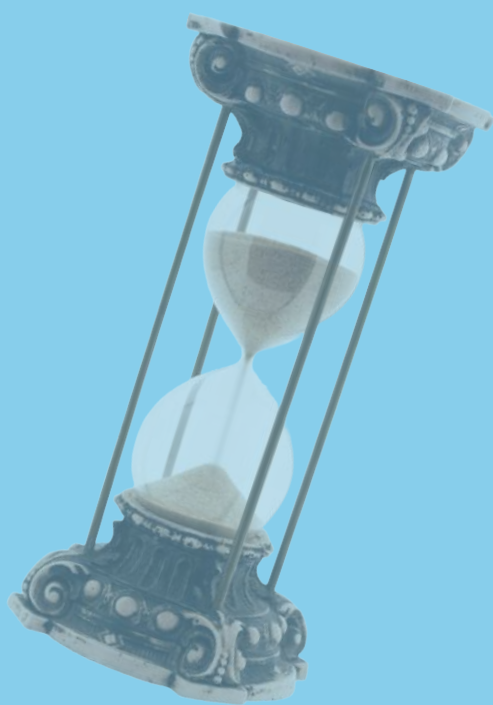
Time Travel

What I consider my first intercultural experience is the summer of 2022. It was my first time traveling on my own (without parents, like a real adult). I and my friend decided to visit Greece, specifically Rhodos. I have never been to Greece before. To be honest I have not travelled much up to that point.

We lived in a cute town called Archangelos, it looked a tiny bit scary when we arrived in the middle of the night especially since it was just the two of us and I don't know how many of you will find this relatable but getting into a taxi in the middle of the night with a strange man in a country you have never been to is a little scary but we were pleasantly surprised since the driver was super nice and even offered to drive us a bit longer than just to the centre of the little town (our accommodation was hard to reach with a car which we figured out after circling the town a couple of times). So, we got out and got lost one more time, but we had already noticed all our friends for that week were cats. The next morning, we got up and decided to explore a little. All the Greek grandmas were sitting in front of their houses and greeted us with big smiles, it was really nice and from that point on we always tried to greet them first since we figured as we were younger, we were supposed to, that made their smiles even bigger.

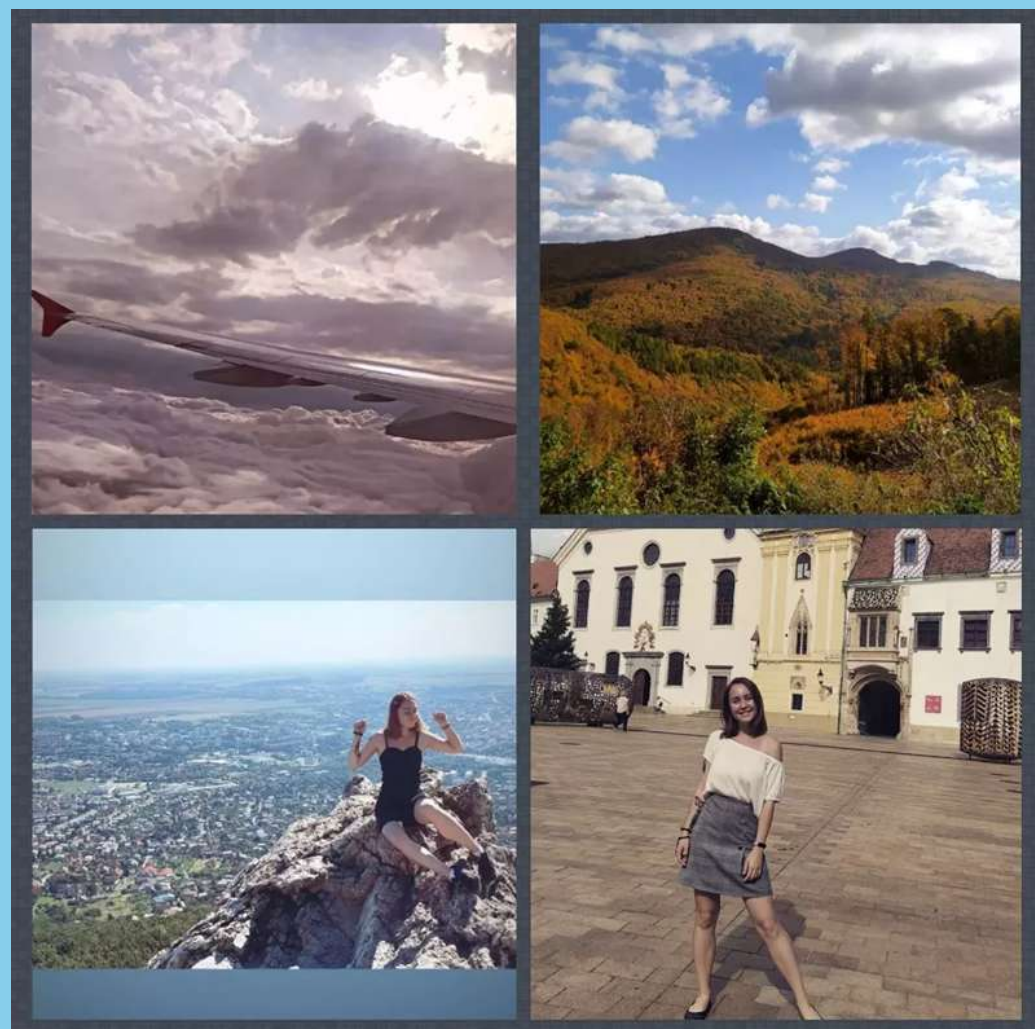
Of course, we visited the city of Rhodos as well, and got scammed in the centre. But hey, you live you learn. We actually came back to the city of Rhodos one more time that week and I got to walk through the ancient Olympic stadium, I chose to do it barefoot. I can't tell you why but it felt amazing, and I felt really connected to the history of the whole place, it felt a bit magical. Maybe it was because right next to the stadium we could see the Temple of Apollo which was being reconstructed at the time. In case you were wondering, yes cats were here too. They really are everywhere, and most of them are really friendly since a lot of tourists and also locals feed them. Me and my friend even "took in" two baby boys (we fed them once at our place and they decided to stay with us the whole week).

Viktória Vörösová



What is studying in Nitra like?

I got my first Intercultural experience when I entered the University of Slovakia in Nitra. For what? I wanted to dilute my adult working life with university everyday life and classes, to see something new. I came here to experience a different education system, and different teaching methods that teachers use here. I do not know if I will be able to stay in Slovakia, but I can definitely say that I am absolutely happy that I took the opportunity to study here. I found myself in an environment where I had to learn how to communicate with people, in an environment thanks to which, although not perfect, I learned a new language for myself and pulled up the old one :)

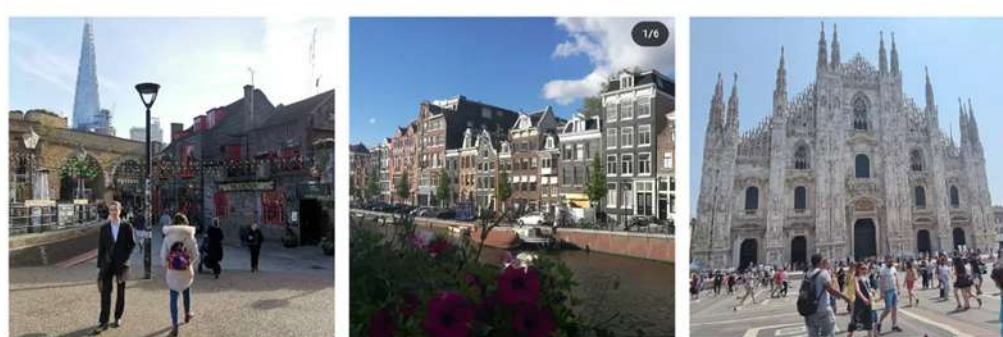
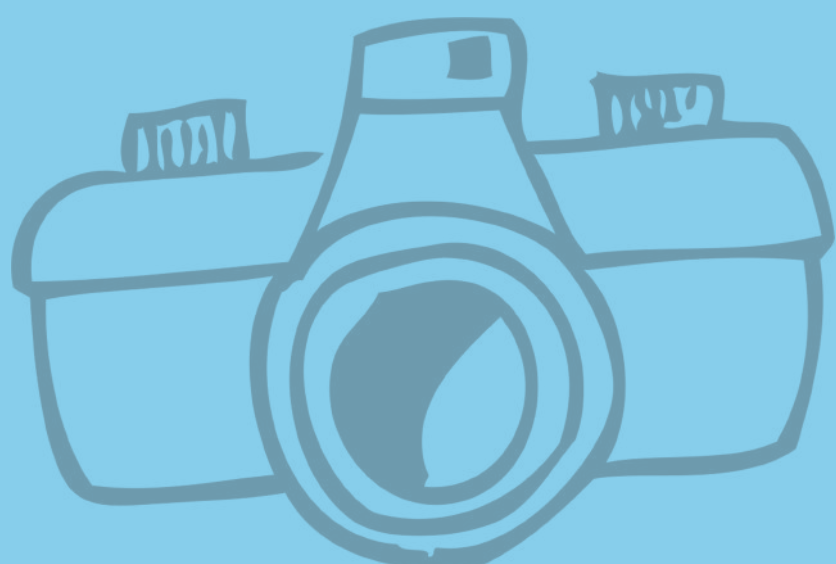


Oksana
Kulabukova

Discovering new cultures

My intercultural experience started early in my childhood thanks to my parents when they showed me the magic of travelling and exploring. They introduced me to a world full of diversity and possibilities. I've experienced numerous cultures and countries and discovered so many places, learned new information, met interesting people and what's most important tried local food. The most remarkable experience was when I visited the USA, Florida. It was a completely different culture, different mentality, everything was different. As a person from Europe, I was used to certain things, that are common across Europe that are not normal in the USA. All that viral videos about culture shock moving to the USA are absolutely true. Everything is double the size, even people, people are extremely friendly, they really do like small talk, and I hated it. I just gave them a stare of 'go to hell' when they talked to me. It sounds a bit rude, but it was really annoying that every second person on the street wanted to talk to you. But I am glad that I could experience famous swamps with alligators and the culture and habits of the Americans, and I can admit that it is a country of freedom and possibilities. Even though I didn't fall for this country, I am grateful that I could discover and experience it. In the future, I would like to experience other countries with diverse cultures, for example, Latin America or Africa.

Viktória Benčíková



A different way of life

Travelling around the world means going from one place to another for some time. It gives us an opportunity to learn new things, to meet new people, and to understand other cultures, traditions, and languages.

I have several favourite Intercultural Experiences. It is from several years. Since I was little, I have been going with my parents on various trips around Slovakia, and since I was 7 years old, I have been going with my parents on various trips abroad. We have visited lots of different places and countries, we met many people from various countries. In every country, we tried their national food. It was a great experience because we tried a lot of flavours.

My most memorable Intercultural Experience comes from my first vacation in Croatia, where we stayed in a smaller house with our friends. Our landlord lived in the town of Selce and told us about the history, culture, and people of this town. He tended to us throughout our stay. He has shown us many interesting places, beaches, and local shops. He took us to a traditional Croatian market, where we tasted their national dishes, such as black risotto, “girice” – small salty fried fish, grilled “lignje” and “pljeskavica”. We visited a traditional Croatian fish picnic combined with a visit to the sandy beach in the bay. That evening, their traditional festival was held, which was in the open sea on boats, where many people met and celebrated this evening together. We also experienced the victory of the home Croatian football team, which was fully manifested in the streets of the city. All Croatians we met were nice and friendly to us.

They are generally very loyal people. They frequently visit and socialise with one another. Unannounced visits to friends and family are common among them. Croatians are extremely hospitable and will go out of their way to be exceptional hosts. They will try to overcome language barriers and demonstrate their hospitality.

Each place has its own charm, and it was a unique experience. I recommend it to everyone!



Lenka Gazdíková





3. Language of Art

ISSN 1339-7370
1/2023

AS THE GODS WILL IT

A kingdom knew a ruler praised,
all who come will be amazed.
Amazed by the sight of a castle of gold,
people living decades without looking old.
A mighty king sat on the throne,
a ruler of the land, he himself had grown.
One would think, how could he fail?
When even countless wars would come to no avail.
Well then children, to you let me tell,
the somber part of this story as well.
Most don't know, that the king himself,
was a powerful god, hiding his inner self.
He lived with the mortals, creating a place,
that could easily even heaven replace.
The other gods, however, were not as kind,
with their powers, they had something else in mind.
They shattered the mountains and burned down all trees.
They wouldn't listen to the people's pleas.
"They didn't deserve the treasures you shared!",
the gods with their fury to the king declared.
"This kingdom of yours has served its purpose,
or maybe I would rather call it a circus.
But don't you fret, because as of now,
you won't have to make your people bow.
You can live among the sheep,
just like the mortals, you like to keep.
Your strength, however, we'll be taking,
so, there's no chance of overtaking
the paradise we have, no longer for you,
this pile of garbage will have to do.
So, spend your years and it's best that you know,
there's a place for you waiting, way down below.

Rastislav Macko

Endurance (a poem for my past self)

So many problems we are running from
 Life is sometimes like a thunder storm
 In need of a fresh start, craving to be reborn
 Thorns, devil's horns... you can only mourn

A random wave of panic
 You feel kind of manic
 Hiding in the shadow
 Dreaming of a rainbow

Trying to find pieces of joy
 Happiness that you don't wanna destroy
 Even though you can't escape your dark thoughts
 What might help? Couple of shots...

If you feel like you are at your worst
 Remember, we all sometimes get lost
 Everything you see is turning black
 Seeing the good in the bad is what you lack

Take a deep breath
 Fight the death
 Experience serendipity
 Forget the negativity



That is just a gloomy season
 Doubting yourself? There is no reason
 Stop drinking that venomous poison
 Escape your own fictional prison

Even if you feel strong sorrow
 There is always some happiness to borrow
 When you get out of the dark hollow
 You will not stop loving tomorrow

You need to put yourself first
 Otherwise, you will be forever cursed
 One day you will be proud
 You will find joy and laugh out loud

Bc. Šimon Haspra

Soňa Červeňová

The Art of Love

Loving is an uplifting, magical flow.
Possessing our hearts—they strive it to stow.
However, I happen to know,
Sometimes, love is the art of letting go.

Society

We live in a society where we depend on each other.
So, please tell me why we would rather
play games and break each other's bones,
than trying to heal our souls?

Solidarity

I am trying to keep abreast of the news in the world.
The more I try, the heavier my head is.
The more I try, the more desperate this world sees.
The good news is- we can be saved.
If there's, at least, a cubic of magic in human's hearts- new humans can be raised.
This magic, that's all what is left,
When our eyes see the counterclaims to the claims of politicians,
When our sight debunks the life's conditions,
And the mind doesn't approve fads of humanity,
Our magic stays- it's called solidarity.

Haiku poems

If the strong storm is
going to attack your mood...
Remember the good.

Life is the river,
it is flowing so quickly...
Splash! The river ends.



TERÉZIA GUTTENOVÁ

TILL THE SUN DIES

I never want to be alone again
I never want to know the innocence
And with your hands around my neck
I want to see you always coming back

Cause when you hold me
Touch me
Feel me with your eyes
For you I would tear myself apart
Cause when you see me
Dancing
Naked in the dark
Promise me you'll forever be my light

Flame in your heart
Under blue skies
I found a home in your dark brown eyes
Just kids in the storm
That's where we come from
I'll love you till the sun dies

I will kindly watch you fall asleep
Realizing you've been my missing piece
And every time I run into your arms
I listen to the heartbeat of my love

Cause when you hold me
Touch me
Feel me with your eyes
For you I would tear myself apart
Cause when you see me
Dancing
Naked in the dark
Promise me you'll forever be my light

Flame in your heart
Under blue skies
I found a home in your dark brown eyes
Just kids in the storm
That's where we come from
I'll love you till the sun dies

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Klq2HHBXAvg>

The Question of Existence

The most unusual thing happened to me on my morning stroll today. I was walking along the river, enjoying the morning scenery. It was quite early, so there wasn't a soul around. Except...

Except for the elderly man who suddenly appeared right next to me. He was just standing near, his hunched back hidden underneath his beige coat. He was a little shorter than me, and he used a cane to support himself.

„Beautiful, isn't it?“ he said as he glanced out at the horizon, the morning sun rising above the river. Then, he looked at me, his dark eyes glinting with resolution.

I looked closely at his face. His eyes were framed by wrinkles that he collected over the years. His eyebrows were drooping slightly. They were also white, along with his moustache and his hair, that peeked out from his beret. He had long ears and a large nose, that solidified my opinion of his age. Although his skin was shrivelled and wrinkly, his expression was relaxed, as he was striking me with a crooked smile.

„It is.“ I agreed and eyed him up and down. His beret was matching the black sweater he wore underneath his coat. His shoes were polished and clean, and his pants were plaid, the pattern drawing him out as a typical grandpa.

„But do you know what's even more beautiful?“ He said and nudged me with his cane. The cane was made of dark wood and had a pattern carved into its whole length. The handle was decorated with a red string and a silver eagle was resting on top of it, serving as a support point.

„No,“ I replied, and I wondered whether he would say something inappropriate, something that would make me turn around and rush home in disgust. I hoped for the best and awaited his answer.

„Having someone to experience it with.“ He smiled, the wrinkles making his eyes smaller. The apples of his cheeks became plumper, and his crooked teeth were on display, making the smile more sincere than if it was a row of perfect pearly white teeth.

„Thank you for enjoying the sunrise with me.“ As the words left his mouth and the sun crept higher up in the sky, he disappeared into thin air.

„Goodbye.“ I whispered to the man whose name I would never know, a bitter-sweet feeling booming in my chest.

Silvia Oravcová

The Austen Tale

The day has come, he was going to visit the place that grabbed his interest when he was a child. Years went by since he first heard of it. He looked into anything related to it. Anything, but what was in the museum. And now the time had finally come. The class trip to the museum of the Austen Mansion, or as they knew it in his town – the Haunted Mansion.

The legend goes that in the late 17th century there was a young couple, Sir James Austen, who was a wealthy man, and his wife Lady Bertrude, who was born into a poor family. They met when they were rather young, and they fell in love almost instantly. The Austen family did not approve of James' choice because they believed that Bertrude was with him only for the money and nothing else. Bertrude, of course, denied those accusations because they simply weren't true.

Before the couple got married, James had ordered a mansion to be built, so he could completely separate from his relatives. The Austen name had a large value and weight and so the mansion was built within a month. To show his love for his wife, James named the mansion after Bertrude. The residents of the town had always believed the Austen family and harassed the young Lady Austen.


The harassment got even worse when Sir James died under mysterious circumstances. Lady Bertrude, who thanks to her husband's name held power, was never taken through any investigation, and had always claimed to be innocent and that she would never hurt James because she loved him dearly. People in the mansion believed her because they saw behind the curtain – the endless crying by James before he passed away, the emptiness of Bertrude's eyes that used to hold so much happiness and love, the silence of a mansion that was once filled with music and laughter.

Lady Bertrude never looked for anyone for she had heart only for James and so when on her death bed, she knew there was nobody to inherit the mansion, nobody to take the Austen blood to the next century. On her last day, she ordered the staff to leave and call as many of the town residents as they could. When there were enough people in the room with her, she spoke, "One who dares to come alone is destined to fail. One who walks in with a company may find the one true luck and happiness that may open the door again." Nobody understood the old lady until they returned to the gate and found it locked with no key to be found.

When the friends and families of the people on the land came looking for them, they only found Bertrude's words written on the walls surrounding the Austen land. The legend says that only 2 people out of the hundreds that ever stepped onto the land had returned back and they spoke of Lady Austen as if they stood by her whole life. "She loved her husband so much, she would not be able to hurt him like that over power," they spoke everywhere they went. But everyone just assumed that they went mad over the years away from everyone. He knew all he could about the Austen family history. The museum was to give him a much clearer view into the couple's life, the legend of Lady Austen's curse. He knew that the museum held facts, pictures, statues, and stories that he had no chance of finding anywhere else. And so, he finally went, and the visit did not disappoint.

After the museum program ended, he wanted to go to check out the mansion again in hopes of seeing it in a different light than before. And there he met her... the only person he managed to fight no matter where they met. They ended up pushing each other and the heat of the moment blinded them. They were so blind to the surroundings until they felt the metal slide across their skins and the ground nearly taking away their breath... they fell through the gate onto the land.

Bianka Rusnáková



4. Encouraging Creativity in Pre-service Teachers

ISSN 1339-7370
1/2023

Digital Game-based Learning in a Secondary School Environment when Teaching EFL Vocabulary and Grammar Patterns

Digital games not only shaped the way we relax but also the way we learn or teach. Game-based learning can be defined as an environment, where a content game and gameplay enhance knowledge and skills acquisition and where game activities include problem-solving spaces that provide learners with a sense of achievement (Qian & Clark, 2016). In the education of the 21st century, digital games have also a degree of educational potential. They can be used in two ways as a supportive tool of classic EFL classes or as an unconventional educational method that substitutes conventional methods used in EFL classes.

To make the use of digital games in the educational process effective it is crucial to keep learners' attention and motivation. In the immersive learning-gaming environment, students are less worried about making mistakes. The level of foreign language anxiety is decreased. Consequently, learners are encouraged to use the language actively in and outside of the EFL classroom. Positive feedback implemented in games encourages pupils to set up higher goals (Gamlo, 2019).

Čekanová (2020), in her diploma thesis, examines the role of Kahoot quizzes in EFL vocabulary teaching and learning. To help us understand the importance of games in the curricular educational process, we will take a closer look at some of her findings:

1. Before we implement a game or quiz, the teacher should consider several factors (Target vocabulary, interests of learners, the topic lesson topic, compliance with the lesson plan).
2. Capture students' attention and raise interest (discussions before the game).
3. Eliminate stress, and create fair competition (explain rules and clarify them).
4. Help them understand that making mistakes is a natural part of the learning process (nicknames, privacy, and learning from mistakes).
5. Helping pupils to prepare for the test with repetitive quiz options.
6. Explaining the right answers after the game (feedback).
7. Vocabulary and pictures (visual memory stimulation).

Despite having many advantages, DGBL has also its shortcomings. At first, some learners are upset about losing. Pupils need to feel that the gaming environment is safe and that nobody is judging their failures harshly. Secondly, personally speaking, the speed of school internet at some secondary schools in Slovakia is quite slow, this can be an obstacle because in many games and quiz's reaction time is also an important factor. The digital infrastructure of Slovak secondary schools should be improved. Lastly, but importantly, standardized vocabulary tests for each game could be constructed. This allows more objective vocabulary diagnosis within the DGBL environment (Vnučko and Klimová, 2023).

To sum up, several research studies have shown that digital games utilized in EFL vocabulary teaching and learning have a place in modern education. Contradictorily, this topic requires further investigation and research work before implementation into educational practice. Not every educational or serious game has proven to be effective. This topic should be approached with the joy of the explorers, but with the caution of researchers.

REFERENCES:

- BROM, Cyril; ŠISLER, Vít; SLAVÍK, Radovan. Implementing digital game-based learning in schools: augmented learning environment of 'Europe 2045'. Multimedia systems, 2010, 16, p. 23-41.
- HILMUN, Perisya, et al. The Use of Digital Game-Based Learning in EFL Classroom: Teacher's Voices. In: International Conference on English Language Teaching (ICONELT 2019). Atlantis Press, 2020. pp. 278-282.
- VNUČKO, Gregor; KLIMOVÁ, Blanka. Exploring the Potential of Digital Game-Based Vocabulary Learning: A Systematic Review. Systems, 2023, 11(2), p. 57.
- Čekanová M. 2020. Učenie sa slovnej Zásoby prostredníctvom digitálnych hier: diploma thesis [online]. Prešov: Univesity of Prešov. p. 71. [cit. 2023 04-20]. Dostupné z: <https://opac.crzp.sk/?fn=detailBiblioFormChildIPJGU&sid=F0D9EA643ED4040315E9171BE0B8&seo=CRZP-detail-kniha>

Samuel Ďuriš

Fiction is Fictionalized Autobiography: Nicola Yoon, Stephen King

Society acknowledges that authors include a piece of themselves in their works. Fiction books involve their experiences, interests, memories, dreams, or beliefs. They cope with internal or external conflicts by using their imagination and writing their thoughts and ideas down. That is the case of every fiction book to a certain extent, so they are more personal fictionalized autobiographies, even diaries. Bestselling authors like Nicola Yoon and Stephen King are no exceptions.

Nicola Yoon released her bestselling first novel 'EVERYTHING, EVERYTHING' about a girl called Maddy who is allergic to the world and cannot step outside their house, but then a teenage boy named Olly becomes her neighbor. This young-adult book is full of moments that the author experienced. She started drafting this novel when her daughter was four months old, and she was a worried mother. Nicola was thinking about what it would be like for a girl who needed to be protected like an infant, which is the gist of the book (Yoon, 2015). As a mother and book lover, she wanted her daughter to be able to read about characters that are just like her, which is why Maddy resembles her daughter when it comes to looks and ethnicity as well. She also took advantage of her love for books and included ones she read and liked or disliked. Similarly, playing Phonetic Scrabble and conversations between Nicola and her husband are part of the story as well (Yoon, 2015). Nicola Yoon incorporates every aspect of her life when writing, no matter how significant.

Stephen King says that the most frightening book he has ever written is 'PET SEMATARY' due to going too far regarding his personal feelings while writing it. In the seventies, he and his wife rented a house in Orrington for the sake of working at his alma mater for a year. A neighbor told them to keep their children and pets safe due to the busy road. As proof of the heavy traffic, they found their cat dead on the lawn and buried it in a little so-called 'PET SEMATARY' in the woods close to their house. Soon after that, their youngest two-year-old son started running towards the road when a truck was coming. The child tripped, or his father caught him, which Stephen does not remember, but the two-year-old did not reach the road. The author kept thinking about all the "WHAT IF'S" and drafted his book right in that house (King, 2019). All these incidents found their way into the story and were reasons why the novel now exists.

Fiction incorporates from barely any to countless subjective and objective experiences, beliefs, and dreams of their authors. Nicola Yoon and Stephen King cope with external and internal conflicts and benefit from their first-hand experiences when writing. The young-adult novel 'EVERYTHING, EVERYTHING' is a bind-up of moments from life. The horror book 'PET SEMATARY' is a version of the year spent in Orrington, where the mentioned incidents turned out differently. Authors insert moments from their lives in their works, which one considers a creative way of writing a diary or a fictionalized autobiography.

REFERENCES:

BELL, Amanda (September 3, 2015). "Meet Nicola Yoon, Whose Book Is Gonna Be Your 'Everything Everything' Soon Enough". MTV.com. Retrieved August 19, 2017.
DIAZ, Shelley (August 31, 2015). "Nicola Yoon Spills 'Everything, Everything' About Her YA Debut". School Library Journal. Retrieved August 19, 2017
KING, Stephen. 2019. Pet Sematary. London: Hodder & Stoughton Ltd. 465 p.
ISBN 978-1-529-37830-6

Sabrina Vazsková



Lesson Plan: Salem Witch Trials

AIM: To develop analytical thinking in the English language by investigating the role of language in the Salem witch trials, including how language was used in accusations, testimonies, and legal proceedings.

CHARACTERISTICS OF A CLASS: Bilingual high school students; level: B2; age: 15-16; time: 45 minutes; an interdisciplinary approach integrating history, language skills, cultural perspectives, ethical considerations, and literary connections.

AIDS: Graphic organizers, interactive board, language support, authentic materials, music and songs, guitar, djembe, videos or multimedia resources, props and costumes, discussion prompts.

INTERDISCIPLINARITY: Students will capitalise/apply their interdisciplinary skills by examining the events from multiple perspectives.

CLASS ORGANIZATION:

Individual work, group work, whole class.

PROCEDURE:

ACTIVITY 1 – WARM-UP: KWL (5 MIN)

Students complete a KWL chart, brainstorming what they know, generating questions, taking notes, and reflecting on what they learned.

A graphic organizer titled "KWL ACTIVITY" with three columns. The first column is labeled "WHAT I KNOW" and contains six numbered orange boxes. The second column is labeled "WHAT I WANT TO KNOW" and contains six numbered purple boxes. The third column is labeled "WHAT I LEARNED" and contains three numbered teal boxes. The title "KWL ACTIVITY" is at the top center, flanked by starburst graphics.

ACTIVITY 2: GROUP ANALYSIS OF DOCUMENTS (20 MINUTES)

Students analyse primary source documents in small groups, discuss observations, interpretations, and questions, and compare information selected by each group.

ACTIVITY 3: WITCH HUNT ROLE-PLAY (15 MINUTES)

Students engage in a role-play activity related to the Salem witch trials using music, videos, props, and costumes to enhance the experience and promote collaboration, communication, creativity, and cultural understanding.

EXAMPLE OF ROLE-PLAY

Role: Accused Witch

Character Name: Sarah Good

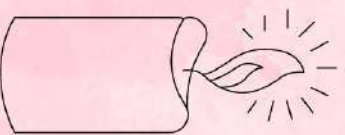
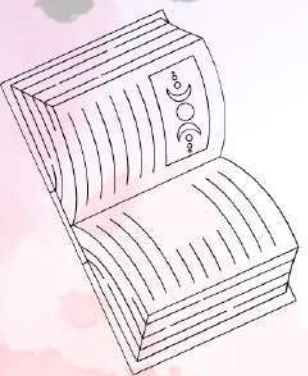
Background: Sarah Good is a poor woman living in Salem Village. She is often seen as an outcast due to her impoverished state and unconventional behavior. Rumors have circulated that she practices witchcraft and is responsible for the misfortunes that have befallen the village.

Dialogue:

Accuser (played by another student): Sarah Good, you stand accused of practicing witchcraft and bringing harm upon the people of Salem Village. How do you plead?

Sarah Good: I plead not guilty! I am a simple woman who means no harm to anyone. These accusations against me are false and unjust.

Accuser: We have testimonies from witnesses who claim to have seen you consorting with the devil and performing dark rituals. How do you explain that?

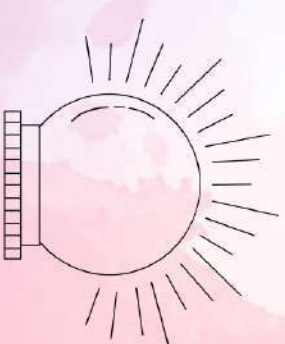
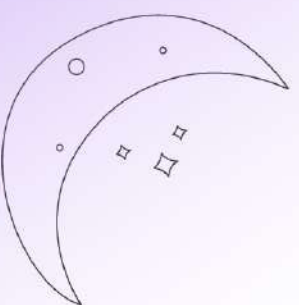


EXAMPLE OF ROLE-PLAY

Sarah Good: I have never consorted with the devil nor performed any rituals. I am a God-fearing woman who would never engage in such wicked activities. These witnesses must be mistaken or acting out of malice.

Defender (played by another student): Your Honors, there is no concrete evidence linking Sarah Good to witchcraft. These accusations are based on hearsay and fear. We must remember that in a just society, the burden of proof lies with the accusers.

Judge (played by the teacher or another student): Sarah Good, we will carefully consider the evidence and testimonies presented. Remember that you have the right to a fair trial, and we will ensure that justice is served.



**ACTIVITY
4: SEVEN
WONDERS
(5 MINUTES)**

Teachers perform the song for the students, provide the lyrics on an interactive board and copies on tables, and then guide the students in singing along with the teachers in a group performance.



Seven wonders

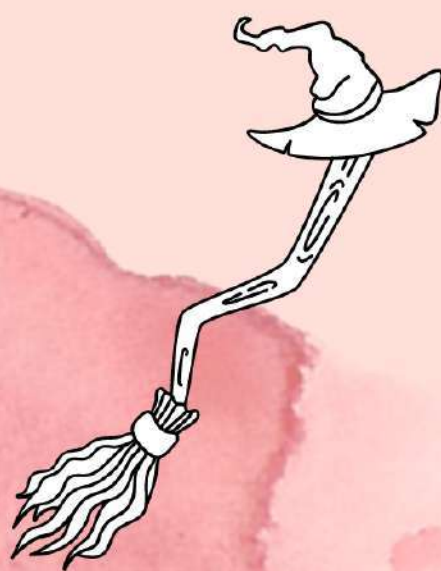
Solong ago
Certain place
Certain time
You touched my hand
On the way



On the way down to Emmeline
But if our paths never cross
Well, you know I'm sorry, but
If I live to see the seven wonders
I'll make a path to the rainbow's end
I'll never live to match the beauty again



The rainbow's edge
So it's hard to find
Someone with that kind of intensity
You touched my hand, I played it cool
And you reached out your hand to me
But if our paths never cross
Well, no, I'm not sorry, but
If I live to see the seven wonders
I'll make a path to the rainbow's end
I'll never live to match the beauty again



The rainbow's edge
So long ago
It's a certain time
It's a certain place
You touched my hand and you smiled
All the way back you held out your hand
If I hope and if I pray
Ooh it might work out someday
If I live to see the seven wonders
I'll make a path to the rainbow's end
I'll never live to match the beauty again



Terézia Guttenová

EnJoY

English Journal For You

ISSN 1339-7370

PUBLISHED ONLINE:

Once a semester, twice a year

PUBLISHED BY:

Department of English Language and Culture, Faculty of
Education, Constantine the Philosopher University in Nitra

CONTACT:

KAJK, Dražovská 4, 949 01 Nitra

EDITORIAL TEAM:

Mgr. Diana Židová, PhD.

Mgr. Katarína Chválová, PhD.

Mgr. Gregor Vnučko

Mgr. Gábor Gutai

Terézia Guttenová

Contact email: kchvalova@ukf.sk

ISSN 1339-7370

1/2023

