

Teaching English through literature

Workbook

Your reflective journal and
additional resources



Foreword

We're delighted you've chosen to continue your professional development with TeachingEnglish training and look forward to learning with you over the coming weeks.

In this workbook you'll find additional learning materials to complement your course, places to note ideas of interest, encouragement and guidance in applying them within your teaching practice. Whether you prefer to save and update it on your device, to keep handwritten notes, or use it as a prompt for your on-the go reflection, do what works for you. We hope you and your learners find it beneficial.

Happy learning.

The British Council open learning team.



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Your learning goals, your course

Learn how to engage and develop your learners' English language skills through a range of literature-focused learning activities and related teaching approaches.

During this TeachingEnglish training, you'll engage with learning content in four modules, supported by a series of live online community events. You'll find practical support and encouragement from course tutors and other members of the British Council courses for teachers global learning community as you work to introduce new teaching ideas within your classroom.

Just as every classroom is unique, so is your learning journey. Ensure you're heading in the right direction by reflecting upon and noting your reasons for taking this course and learning goals. Keeping these in mind will help you focus on the most beneficial content and discussions for you.

Your goals and reasons for learning



Your learning tools

Online learning modules

After completing the introductory Getting started module, work through three modules, each exploring a different area of teaching and learning. Involving an average of 12 hours of study, this course blends theory, practical teaching suggestions and case studies that explore new ways of teaching. Repeat, return to and review activities as often as you like before the end of your course. Learn how to access the online learning modules by visiting the [courses page on TeachingEnglish](#).

Courses for teachers community

Join course tutors and other educators working on their professional development in our supportive, Facebook-based learning community. Gain access to a wide selection of additional learning resources and engage in developmental discussions while getting the support and encouragement you need to successfully bring ideas from the course into your classroom. Access all the discussions and content related to your specific course in the [Guides section](#) on the [community Facebook page](#).

Live events

Attend live community events and webinars led by expert educators, or watch the recordings on the [community Facebook page](#). Focusing on different aspects of your course, these sessions provide you with an opportunity to seek answers to your questions - and share your own expertise and insights. Recordings of all live sessions are available on [TeachingEnglish](#) and on the [community Facebook page](#).

Workbook

Use this workbook to record useful course and community content, questions you'd like to ask in the community, links to resources, or to note ideas from any of the live events. Save a version online or print the workbook - or both.



Module 1: Foundations of teaching English through literature

Overview

The aim of this module is to demonstrate how literary texts can be used to present language and develop reading, listening, writing and speaking, while keeping the learners actively engaged and motivated.

By the end of this module, you will be able to:

- recognise the role of literature in life and in learning a language
- identify your learners' preferences and the challenges they can face in learning English through literature
- identify and evaluate the benefits of using literature in language classes
- apply criteria for selecting appropriate literary texts
- identify how different language skills are developed through using literature in English classes
- identify the advantages of using a text-based approach as an effective strategy for using literature to teach English.

Further reading, teaching, and learning resources

Type	Resource description (tap/click to open)
Use	Lesson plan for lower-intermediate level teenagers and adults using 'The Emperor's new clothes'
Read	Article about how the British Council's Young Learners Centre in Paris uses children's literature
Read	Article about the promotion of diversity through children's literature - including links to lesson plans
Read	Article exploring common teacher concerns with literature and some benefits



Read	Article providing an introduction to using literature as a tool for language learning
Read	Article providing an overview of manga and its potential as a language-learning resource
Read	A teaching pack based on materials developed by the British Council in cooperation with the BBC World Service.
Read	Publication: BritLit - Using literature in EFL classrooms
Read	Publication: English in the world: Teaching and learning the language and literatures
Watch	Video of discussion on literature in the classroom (featured in first module)
Watch	Videos exploring learner assessment
Watch	Video about using literature in the classroom
Watch	Video about literature in language teaching
Watch	Webinar: A window to the world: Graphic Novels in the Secondary English Language Classroom
Watch	Webinar: Eyes open - celebrating diversity in YL literature
Watch	Webinar: Teaching Shakespeare to language learners
Watch	Webinar: Using children's literature to teach children English
Watch	Webinar: Using literature for language learning



Your learning

Which new ideas in Module 1 are most useful for you? Note them here together with any questions you'd like to ask in the [British Council courses for teachers learning community](#).

Describe three things you learned from...

Your online module

Live community events

Discussions and resources shared here and in the course community



Plan it

Describe one thing you will change in your teaching. Why have you chosen it?

What problems might happen when you try to make this change?

What could you do to solve those problems?

Teach it

Try it out and come back here to reflect on the experience. What did you learn?



Module 2: Developing receptive skills through literature

Overview

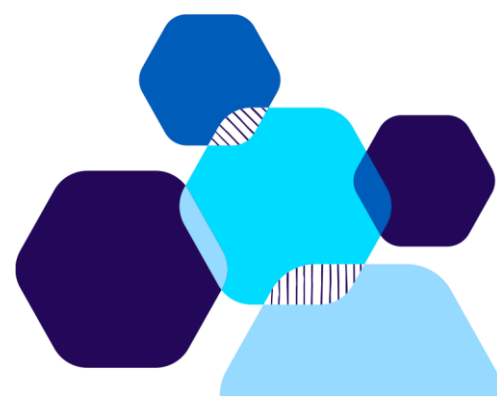
In this module you will explore ways of boosting your learners' listening and reading skills with effective literature-focused classroom activities.

By the end of this module, you'll be able to:

- recognise the role of literature in developing receptive skills
- distinguish between bottom-up and top-down processing skills
- evaluate how literary texts provide appropriate opportunities to develop listening skills
- identify the types of activities most suitable for developing your learners' listening skills
- identify stages of a reading task to help learners deal with a text
- use a list of factors to select appropriate texts for your learners
- apply the jigsaw reading strategy for literary texts.

Further reading, teaching, and learning resources

Type	Resource description (tap/click to open)
Use	A character-analysis project for learners
Use	Audio and text resources for use in the classroom
Use	Lesson plan and materials for primary learners: The very busy spider
Use	Lesson plan for teens - My daughter, the fox
Use	Text and classroom activities for teens (featured in second module) - Whose face do you see?
Read	Article about jigsaw reading



Read	Article about top-down and bottom-up listening
Read	Article exploring theories relating to reading
Read	Article exploring the selection of texts and structuring of teen literature lessons
Read	Article exploring the use of poems, quotations and proverbs in the language classroom
Read	Article exploring the use of poetry for developing receptive skills
Read	Article with links and suggestions for using poetry and fiction in the classroom
Read	Publication: Teaching literature overseas: Language-based approaches (1983)
Watch	Webinar: Nurturing emotional intelligence through literature
Watch	Webinar: Using children's literature as mirrors, windows and sliding glass doors in primary ELT



Your learning

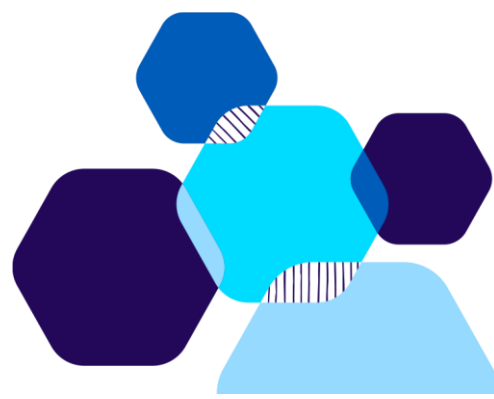
Which new ideas in Module 2 are most useful for you? Note them here together with any questions you'd like to ask in the [British Council courses for teachers learning community](#).

Describe three things you learned from...

Your online module

Live community events

Discussions and resources shared here and in the course community



Plan it

Describe one thing you will change in your teaching. Why have you chosen it?

What problems might happen when you try to make this change?

What could you do to solve those problems?

Teach it

Try it out and come back here to reflect on the experience. What did you learn?



Module 3: Developing productive skills through literature

Overview

In this module you will explore ways of helping your learners improve their speaking and writing skills with effective literature-focused classroom activities.

By the end of this module, you'll be able to:

- recognise what productive skills are and how they can be taught through literature
- identify different aspects of speaking for responding to literature
- use various strategies to develop learners' speaking skills through literary texts
- recognise the stages and genres of writing
- use graphic organisers as a strategy for planning writing.
- structure a literature lesson that integrates reading, listening, speaking and writing skills.

Further reading, teaching, and learning resources

Type	Resource description (tap/click to open)
Use	App for displaying vocabulary
Use	App for recording voices
Use	App with story plans
Use	Lesson plan and materials for advanced learners: Love and marriage in Pride and Prejudice
Use	Lesson plan and materials for advanced learners: Pride and Prejudice and the Regency world
Use	Lesson plan and materials for older learners: Dylan Thomas
Use	Lesson plan for teens - The wolf's tale
Use	Online story map
Use	Speaking lesson plan with a focus on literature for older teens and adults



Use	Website which regularly features writing competitions
Read	Article about accuracy
Read	Article about fluency
Read	Article exploring the use of poetry for developing productive skills
Read	Article looking at creative writing - including for students of literature
Read	Article on action research
Read	Publication exploring how literature, poetry, art and advertising can spur learners' creativity
Read	Publication: Action plan for teachers - a guide to teaching English
Watch	Video about teaching speaking skills



Your learning

Which new ideas in Module 3 are most useful for you? Note them here together with any questions you'd like to ask in the [British Council courses for teachers learning community](#).

Describe three things you learned from...

Your online module

Live community events

Discussions and resources shared here and in the course community



Plan it

Describe one thing you will change in your teaching. Why have you chosen it?

What problems might happen when you try to make this change?

What could you do to solve those problems?

Teach it

Try it out and come back here to reflect on the experience. What did you learn?



Your action plan

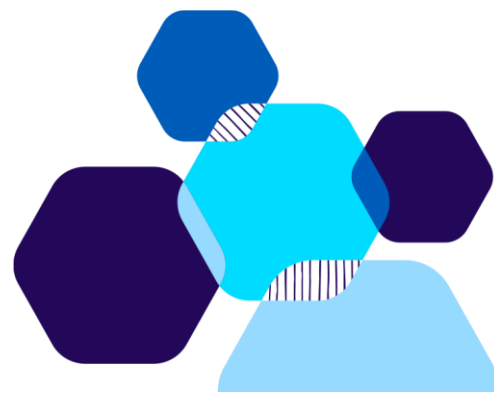
Make an action plan focused on applying learning from this the course. Complete any sentences that help you do this. Come back and reflect on what happened in class.

In the next two weeks, I am going to...

Over the next two months, I'm going to...

Before the end of the school year, I'm going to...

Next school year, I want to...



Well done — you’ve made it to the end of the course! We hope you’ve found it useful, and you’ll join us on another very soon.

Learn more about free teacher training courses with the British Council at: <https://www.teachingenglish.org.uk/training>

Explore our framework for teacher knowledge and skills for inspiration, support and materials: <https://www.teachingenglish.org.uk/professional-development/teachers>

