

Language Skill: Pre-reading, during reading, post-reading, and vocabulary is what this lesson plan is going to deal with.

Background Information: An ESL classroom in a French high school. The students are in 11th grade and have had ESL classes since they were in 4th grade, so they would be considered as high- intermediate students. It is a classroom of 25 students that has had sufficient exposure to the English language due to previous years in school. The unit of study is reading strategies in general. Before this lesson I have worked with the students on each individual reading strategy stated above, this means that there was a lesson for each strategy.

Objectives: *Students will be able to:*

- 1- Use pre-reading strategies when they receive the text.
- 2- Use during reading strategies.
- 3- Use post-reading strategies.
- 4- Use strategies in order to overcome difficult words they may face in the text.
- 5- Elaborate their ideas on what they have just read.

Materials:

1- The materials needed for this lesson are: Videotape of recorded opening ceremony in Greece by CBC 2004, the article from Time Magazine, hand-outs with questions relating to article that T created, blank overhead projector sheet or black board to write key words or misunderstood words on board, and hand-outs for follow-up activity.

Procedures:

1. Pre-reading strategies:

Step 1(5mins)

T asks Ss if they know of a big sport event that has occurred this summer.

If Ss answer Olympics then continue to next step, if they do not then ask them if they know what the Olympics are. Then she asks what they know about the Olympics and its events, being careful to write any new words on the board and giving a brief explanation of each word.

Step 2(4 min.)

T shows brief video of the Athens 2004 Olympic opening ceremonies just images no speaking (30 sec.).

T now asks Ss to flip through the article and asks them what are the first things they see in the article and asks them to write their findings down on a piece of paper.

Step 3(2mins)

T asks a few students what they wrote down and discusses with the Ss their findings.

T listens carefully here to what the students are saying. T pays attention to congratulate students on a job well done.

2-During Reading activities

Step 1(15 sec.)

T reminds Ss to hi-light any words or expressions they do not understand, but to continue reading and not stopping when they do not understand something.

Step 2(15 sec.)

T tells students to write the main idea in each paragraph in the margins of the article.

Step 3(10 min.)

Here T tells students to begin reading the text entirely.

3- Post-reading Activities.

Step 1(2 min.)

Place students in groups of 4-5 according to your attendance lists. Make sure to separate Ss equally. Meaning, T must not put all the strong Ss together and the weaker Ss together.

Step 2 (2 min.)

Teacher asks students if there are any other words or expressions they did not understand in the text. T takes the time to answer any questions, but also ask if other Ss know what that word means. Congratulate good answers from Ss.

Step 3 (10 min.)

Teacher hands out worksheet that she has made according to the article and asks students to work on it together.

Step 4 (9 min.)

T answers questions with students once they have finished, being perceptive to what they answer. Note if students answer the questions well and if they are getting the idea of the article. Congratulate good answers or efforts done to find an answer. Make sure not to chose the same students and ask other students what they answered for the same questions.

4- Follow- up Activities.

Step 1

T hands-out the “Olympics Around the World” project sheet and goes over it with the students.

Step 2

T tells Ss they can get in groups of 4 or 5 and begin their research as homework and that they will continue next class.

Evaluation

The evaluation of this lesson plan will be done observationally, and T should look for the elements in the checklist attached to this lesson plan. Also teacher will pick up the hand out with the questions associated to the article, look them over, and put it in students reading portfolios. Also the group project, which would encourage extensive reading, is a good way for the teacher to see if students can pick up on important information on the reading that they will have to do for this project.

Comments

First, lesson planning can be much harder than one first perceives it to be. A teacher can plan their lesson extremely well, but one factor always remains that can make or break a lesson plan: timing. As I have noticed through the microteaching presentation, no matter how well one tries to plan their time, there always seems to be a lack of it. In some cases however, it is the opposite. Sometimes teachers finish their plan well ahead of time. Here I would caution a teacher to over plan rather than have students stare at blank wall in front of them. In the other case, if not enough time is an issue, than the teacher should be aware to end the lesson gracefully and pick up where they left off the next time they are on the subject. It is important, however, that the teacher does not do this all the time, for they might need to do a lot of catching up towards the end of the year or course.

Second, handing out question sheets for the students to answer in accordance to the text they just read in groups can be troublesome in the evaluation of the individual student. Because the students are in groups, students may rely on the stronger students to do the work for them, hence shadowing the teacher’s judgment on the comprehension of the text for each individual student. Group work, on the other hand, can be helpful for the weaker students because the stronger ones can help guide the others on finding the answers, thus encouraging the weaker students to do the work.

Finally, when it comes to extensive group work projects the skills that the students are using can be those that they have practiced in class before. Considering that students have to look through texts, meaning skimming and scanning, summarize, and so on, group activities not only allows for cooperative learning to happen, but it can also reinforce the elements that have been taught in class. One major disadvantage this type of activity has is that it is also time consuming. Group work and cooperative learning can be

time consuming because often the teacher must allow class time for the students to get together and piece their work together.

Observation Checklist

- 1) Ss answer the questions well according to what they have read in the text.
- 2) Ss used the text to help them find the meaning of certain words.
- 3) Ss used skills like skimming and scanning to answer the activity sheet.
- 4) T perceives if students are getting the main idea of the text.

References

Aebersold, J. A., & Field, M. L. (1997). *From Reader to Reading Teacher; Issues and Strategies for Second Language Classrooms*. United Kingdom: Cambridge University Press.

Harmer, J., *The Practice of English Language Teaching. Third Ed.*. Essex: Pearson Education Ltd., 2004. (I used the parts on “Teaching receptive skills” and “reading”)

Nunan, D., *Second Language Teaching and Learning*. Boston: Heinle & Heinle Publishers, 1999. (I used the part on “reading”)

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Article for Lesson Plan

Tyrangiel, J., *A Classic Spectacle; With a Theatrical Nod to its Mythology and Rich History- and without a hitch- Athens Brought the Olympic Games Home in a Dazzling Fashion*. Time Magazine. August 23, 2004.

Helen Karas

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**A Classic Spectacle
Lesson Plan on Reading Strategies
Putting it all together**

**Prof. x
DLS2101
October 14, 2004**

Name:

Date:

WORKSHEET FOR A CLASSIC SPECTACLE

A) Answer the following questions using the article to help you.

- 1) How many athletes were participating in the Athens 2004 Olympic Games?
- 2) Which Greek athletes did not show up for the drug testing and why?
- 3) Who helped the in the realization of the Athens 2004 Olympic Games?
- 4) Who will host the next Olympic Games?
- 5) Was there going to be a lot of people at the events after the ceremony?

B) What do you think?

- 1) Did the author like, dislike, or a bit of both the opening ceremony of the Olympic Games and why?
- 2) Do you think it is right for athletes to take drugs in order to enhance their performance?
- 3) How would you feel if an athlete from your home country would be found guilty of taking performance enhancing drugs?

C) Chose the right word to fill in the blanks. Circle your answer.

Unfortunately, nothing is ever quite that easy in **Sparta/ Athens/ China**. The evening before the ceremony, Greece's two most celebrated **judges/ singers/ athletes** – 200-m Olympic champion Konstantinos Kenteris and 100-m silver medalist Katerina Thanou – missed their **optional/mandatory/ obligatory** drug test and were suspended by the Hellenic Olympic Committee (H.O.C.) pending an International Olympic Committee (I.O.C.) **investigation/ research/ examine**.

D) Multiple choice. Select the right answer for each question.

- 1) Which athlete lit the torch?
 - a) Katerina Thanou
 - b) Nikos Kaklamanakis
 - c) Konstantinos Kenteris

- 2) Who performed a song?
 - a) Bjork
 - b) Gianna Angelopoulos- Daskalaki
 - c) Despina Vandi

- 3) How much money did Greece pour in to their Olympics?
 - a) 7 Billion Dollars
 - b) 5.7. Billion Dollars
 - c) 7.5 Billion Dollars

E) Answer the following question by true or false.

- 1- Yanni performed at the opening ceremonies in Athens.

- 2- The Hellenic Olympic Committee Suspended the two athletes that did not do their mandatory drug test.

- 3- The Athletes from Bermuda wore pants to the ceremony.

F) List any words or expressions you did not understand in the text. (We will look at these at a later time.)

Answer Key

A)

- 1- Some ten thousand athletes.
- 2- Konstantinos Kentenris and Katerina Thanou
- 3- Gianna Angelopoulos- Daskalaki
- 4- China Beijing
- 5- No due to poor ticket sales.

B)

- 1- He mostly likes the Opening ceremony, but he found a few glitches like the laser and mimes trying to sum up Greek history in 15 minutes.

- 2- Students should reply no because of the unfairness of taking drug to outperform other athletes.

- 3- Ashamed, sad, disappointed...

C)

Athens, Athletes, mandatory, investigation.

D)

- 1- b) Nikos Kaklamanakis
- 2- a) Bjork
- 3- c) 7.5 billion dollars

E)

- 1- False
- 2- True
- 3- False

F)

T will take time when Ss bring back some information for their projects to do another small vocabulary check.

THE OLYMPICS OF THE WORLD



GROUP PROJECT

Now it is your turn to look at other countries that have hosted the Olympic Games.

- Get together in groups of 4 or 5. (You may choose who you want in your group so long as the work is divided equally)

- Once you have decided who is in your team, as homework you each have to look up the countries that hosted the Olympic Games in the past and decide which one you all want to research on.

- Gather information and be ready to make a billboard in class on your findings.

- Your group billboard must include the following topics:
 - a) The country and the year the Olympic Games were held
 - b) A brief description of that country, for example: traditional customs and holidays, major historical events, and where it is situated in the world.
 - c) From the Olympic Games of that country, find which country won the most medals, an important event from those games (example: someone was found using performance enhancing drugs), or something that made that country distinct from other Olympic hosting countries.

- Also do not forget to include any important pictures that relates to your topic, and you may add other information that the group has found interesting.

- Class time will be taken in order to complete this project, but a lot of work needs to be done before coming into class.

- Make sure you have you team members phone numbers so you can call each other for questions or to double check something.

DO NOT FORGET TO HAVE FUN WHILE DOING THIS!

Olympics 2004

A Classic Spectacle

With a theatrical nod to its mythology and rich history-- and without a hitch--Athens brought the Olympic Games home in a dazzling fashion

By [JOSH TYRANGIEL/ATHENS](#), Time Magazine

Aug. 23, 2004

The Olympic opening ceremonies are usually where good intentions and bad taste merge into something profoundly silly--and there was no reason to expect anything different from Athens 2004. With the weight of ancient mythology, Olympic history and western civilization piled on its nervous shoulders, surely the Greeks would give us papier-mache Argonauts fleeing from an angry Zeus robot. Or a children's chorus performing a Zorba medley at the Acropolis. Or at least Yanni. But last Friday, Athens introduced a surprising new element to the show: class, or at least its cousin, restraint. History was referenced by way of crisp video from Olympia, but no actor-Pheidippides stumbled breathlessly into the stadium to recreate ancient Marathon. There was a graceful recap of three eras of Greek sculpture that did not include a singing Trojan horse. A hovering cube allowed those familiar with Pythagoras to feel intellectually flattered without patronizing those who were merely amazed. A glassy lake in the middle of the stadium floor suggested the importance of the sea in Greek culture--and looked really, really cool.

Oh, there were a few aesthetic offenses--trying to sum up human history in 15 minutes using a parade of lasers and mimes was probably a mistake, and next time let's have a less anatomically correct centaur. But most of the four-hour ceremony was pitched perfectly between reverence and glee, as some 10,000 athletes from 202 countries were introduced to 72,000 spectators and a couple of billion other people. It was just the kind of perfectly secured, glitch-free triumph that the Greeks needed to boost their confidence for the 16 days ahead.

Unfortunately, nothing is ever quite that easy in Athens. The evening before the ceremony, Greece's two most celebrated athletes--200-m Olympic champion Konstantinos Kenteris and 100-m silver medalist Katerina Thanou--missed their mandatory drug tests and were suspended by the Hellenic Olympic Committee (H.O.C.) pending an International Olympic Committee (I.O.C.) investigation. For Greeks, it was a shocking front-page horror story. I.O.C. officials say notices were posted on the athletes' doors in the Olympic Village alerting them to the 6:15 p.m. test, and that doctors waited more than an hour before declaring them no-shows. The H.O.C. confirms the athletes had checked into the Village, but says they left with no idea the tests had been scheduled. With scandal brewing, Kenteris and Thanou visited their coach in an Athens suburb, then got on a motorcycle to head back to the Olympic Village. They took a detour, though, to a hospital after skidding off the road; the accident left them with minor injuries and the H.O.C. with a major public relations headache. But it was enough to keep the two from testifying at a scheduled I.O.C. hearing to determine their status for the Games.

For Greece, a country of 11 million people and two Olympic celebrities--Kenteris and Thanou--the absurdity and timing of the incident was a cruel blow. It's been a tough battle for Greeks to shake their reputation as

the reprobate relatives of the global family, and just when the world seemed convinced that the country was competent, Kenteris and Thanou ensnared themselves in what may be history's most elaborate lost-homework story. Kenteris and Thanou have missed tests before (once they were in another country when the people with cups came calling) and suspicion has followed the Greek track team since 2002, when it had nine of the world's 14 drug-test no-shows. The Swedes, curiously, have threatened a walkout if the duo is allowed to compete in their events. But it seemed likely that the I.O.C., which has shown no mercy in doping cases, would recommend the boot.

Guilty or innocent, the potential loss of the two biggest Greek stars sent various Olympic officials into a tragicomic spiral of self-pity. "We've been screwed," said a senior Athens organizer. "All the fun has been spoiled. All our efforts for a success have been destroyed."

Not really, of course. To the rest of the world, Thanou and Kenteris are just two more hard-to-pronounce names, and if it turns out Greece does have a couple of high-profile dopers on its squad--well, who doesn't? If nothing else, the scandal added some suspense to the opening ceremony, since word had already leaked out that Thanou was going to be one of the final torch bearers and Kenteris was going to light the Olympic flame. Instead, Nikos Kaklamanakis, a gold medalist in sailing, got the honor. He touched his small flame to a giant, *deus ex machina* contraption bent over the stadium as if it was getting a light for a cigarette. Very European, that.

This unusual duet was preceded by the familiar pageant of the parade of nations, in which swaggering jocks are transformed into Model U.N. delegates thanks to enduring fashion stereotypes. The Bermudans wore their shorts; Tonga had grass skirts; the Japanese showed up in neon Hello Kitty-ish floral patterns; and the Americans, cautioned against excessive displays of national pride, strolled into the stadium in what appeared to be pajamas and--sacre bleu!--berets.

A lot has changed since the 2002 opening ceremony in Salt Lake City, when many countries carried the Stars and Stripes along with their own flags. There was none of that this time, though the negative reaction U.S. athletes were prepared to expect hasn't surfaced either. "Coming in here, I was conscious of the possible dirty looks," said U.S. hammer thrower Jackie Jeschelnig in the Olympic Village, "but honestly, I haven't seen them." In fact, the U.S. delegation received one of the loudest roars of the evening, U.S. politics having been given the night off. But Iraq--whose soccer team shocked global powerhouse Portugal the night before the ceremony by beating them 4-2 in the Olympic preliminaries--and Afghanistan were clearly the stadium's favorite guests.

When all the athletes were finally in place, standing in the spot where 2,162,000 liters of magic lake water had been drained in just three minutes, Bjork performed a song about mother earth while her dress morphed into a map of the world that stretched over the heads of the athletes. It was the largest printed photograph ever. Bjork was followed by Gianna Angelopoulos-Daskalaki, the woman widely credited with saving the

Athens Games from their own inertia in 2000. Angelopoulos-Daskalaki, who smiles even when she's not smiling, got Greek pride going again and welcomed the world to the party.

Even before some of the late partygoers arrived home Saturday morning, athletes were taking the field. The Games' first gold was awarded to China's Du Li in the women's 10-m air-rifle competition. The People's Republic followed up Du's feat with another shooting gold, along with a pair of conquests in the men's synchronized platform and women's synchronized springboard diving events.

In only two decades, China has gone from Olympic outcast, with just five golds in 1988, to a powerhouse, with 28 in the 2000 Games. China's athletic czars have promised that 2008, when Beijing is host, will bring the nation an unprecedented medal trove. To better its chances, China has poured money into lesser-known sports like shooting that offer a bounty of medals. "If we plan very carefully, we could surpass Russia by 2008," boasts Wei Hongquan, a publicity official with China's State General Administration of Sport.

Over at the Aquatic Center there were no Chinese contenders in swimming. And no roof. The steaming Grecian sun that felt warm enough to boil water didn't seem to bother U.S. phenom Michael Phelps, who raised the temperature a few more degrees by winning his first Olympic gold in the 400-m individual medley in world-record time. It was the first gold for the U.S., and as impressively stoic as Phelps has been in pursuing Mark Spitz's cache of seven of them, the weight of the first medal brought on his own waterworks. "There were definitely tears," he admitted. "I've thought about this every day for my whole entire swimming career." Pulled along in his powerful wake, the U.S. medaled in every swimming event on the first day, launching the 43-strong swim team on its quest to surpass its haul of 33 medals in 2000.

Much of this athletic output went unnoticed in Athens. Apparently the Greeks were not so interested in keeping the festival atmosphere going for the actual events. Several high-profile ones--swimming, gymnastics, cycling--played in venues brimming with unoccupied seats. The small crowds underlined the problem of slow ticket sales, which will hurt the country's ability to defray the \$7.5 billion it laid out for the Games.

But in the Olympic Stadium Friday evening, even as the athletes took their oath, committing to a Games "without doping and without drugs," it was still very much a party. The brotherhood of man doesn't get many chances to gather in one place, and when it does, it's kind of hard not to be buoyant. So in between wondering if Palau is actually a country and--hey, looking good over there, Eritrea!--marvelling at the discrepancy between 7 ft. 6 in. Chinese flag bearer Yao Ming and 4 ft. 8 in. Malaysian flag bearer Bryan Nickson Lomas, the Athenians lit cosmic flashlights and shook cowbells and stood for relentless wave upon wave, proving in the end that people the world over really are the same. We're all kind of goofy.

--With reporting by Hannah Beech, Anthee Carassava, Jeff Chu, Sally B. Donnelly, Sean Gregory, Jennie James and Alice Park/Athens