MORE STORIES, PLEASE!

Teachers' Classroom Materials

BEREKET ELT Archive — Seminar 9

Main Classroom Demonstration

- The Secret of the Old Mill
- Use the existing 8-episode BEREKET ELT Archive story as the main seminar demonstration. Each episode can be presented as a text-and-audio slide followed by a questions slide. The full resource already includes comprehension, prediction, speaking and whole-story review questions.
- Recommended demonstration during the seminar: use Episode 1 and the beginning of Episode 2 only. This is enough to show the method without spending too much seminar time on the full story.
- Episode 1 - Suggested Questions for the Demo
- Where do Mia and Daniel live?
- What do they see in the old mill?
- Why is Daniel surprised by the light?
- How do you think they feel at that moment?
- Would you return to the mill the next day? Why or why not?
- What do you think caused the strange light?
- After Episode 2 begins, ask: Was your prediction correct? Which detail changed your idea?

Mini Story 1 — The Lost Photograph

Part 1 - The Photograph

On her way home from university, Leyla stopped at a small second-hand bookshop. She often visited the shop because the owner kept a box of old postcards and photographs near the door. That afternoon, Leyla picked up a black-and-white photograph of three young women standing in front of a school. On the back were the words, "Spring Festival, 1979." One of the women looked very familiar. Leyla was sure she had seen the same face somewhere before. She bought the photograph and took it home. That evening, she showed it to her grandmother. Her grandmother looked at it for a long time and became very quiet.

Questions

- Where did Leyla find the photograph?
- What was written on the back?
- Why did one woman seem familiar?
- Why do you think Leyla's grandmother became quiet?
- What do you think she will say next?
- Have you ever found an old photograph that told a story?

Part 2 - A Familiar Face

Leyla's grandmother finally smiled. She pointed to the woman in the middle and said, "That is my old friend, Selin." They had studied together as teenagers but had lost contact many years ago. The grandmother explained

that Selin had been kind, cheerful and always ready to help classmates. Leyla asked if she wanted to find her again. Her grandmother hesitated because so much time had passed. Leyla suggested asking the bookshop owner where the photograph had come from. The next morning, they returned to the shop together. The owner remembered buying a box of old books and photographs from a family who had recently moved away.

Questions

- Who was Selin?
- What kind of person had she been?
- Why did the grandmother hesitate?
- What did Leyla suggest?
- Would you try to contact a friend after many years? Why?
- What do you think the shop owner will be able to do?

Part 3 - The Reunion

The shop owner still had the family's forwarding email address and agreed to send them a message. Two days later, a reply arrived. Selin was alive and living in another city. She was delighted to hear from her old friend. A week later, the two women spoke by video call for the first time in more than forty years. They laughed, remembered school days and promised not to lose contact again. Leyla watched her grandmother smile throughout the call. The old photograph had cost almost nothing, but it had returned something much more valuable: a friendship.

Questions

- How did they finally contact Selin?
- How did Selin react?
- What did the two friends do during the video call?
- Why was the photograph valuable even though it was cheap?
- What is the main message of the story?
- Retell the story in about one minute.

Mini Story 2 — The Garden Behind the Wall

Part 1 - The Closed Gate

Emir passed the same high stone wall every day on his way to class. Behind it was an old garden that no one seemed to use. Through a small opening in the gate, he could see fruit trees, long grass and a broken wooden bench. One morning, he noticed an elderly man trying to move a heavy bag of soil near the gate. Emir stopped and offered to help. The man introduced himself as Mr. Hasan and thanked him warmly. He explained that the garden had belonged to his family for many years. He wanted to care for it again, but the work had become difficult for him to do alone.

Questions

- What did Emir see behind the wall?
- Who was trying to move the soil?
- How did Emir help?
- Why was the garden difficult for Mr. Hasan to care for?
- What would you do if you passed this place every day?
- What do you think Emir will do next?

Part 2 - A Small Plan

Emir told two classmates about the garden. They asked Mr. Hasan if they could help for a few hours on Saturday. He was surprised but pleased. The students cleared a path, collected fallen branches and repaired the old bench. Mr. Hasan showed them how to prune one of the fruit trees carefully. He also told them stories about the neighbourhood when he was young. By the end of the afternoon, the garden already looked brighter. The students began to imagine using one corner as a small reading and conversation area.

Questions

- Who joined Emir?
- What jobs did the students do?
- What did Mr. Hasan teach them?
- What new idea did the students have?
- Why can shared work bring people together?
- What do you predict will happen to the garden?

Part 3 - An Open Garden

Over the next month, more neighbours joined the project. Someone brought paint, another person repaired the gate, and children planted flowers near the path. Mr. Hasan decided to open the garden for two hours every Sunday afternoon. Students came to read, neighbours talked over tea, and children learned the names of different plants. The garden did not become modern or perfect, but it became useful again. Emir realized that a place can change when people share time, knowledge and responsibility. The wall was still there, but the garden behind it no longer felt closed.

Questions

- Who joined the project later?
- How did people contribute?
- What happened every Sunday afternoon?
- What did Emir learn?
- How does the story show respect between generations?
- What community project would you like to see where you live?

Question Bank

- Comprehension
- Who are the main characters?
- Where does this episode happen?
- What problem appears?
- What important detail did you hear?
- Prediction
- What do you think will happen next?
- Who might appear in the next episode?
- What could the character do now?
- Which clue may become important later?
- Opinion
- Was the character's decision a good one? Why?
- Do you agree with what the character did?
- Which choice would be better?
- What is the fairest solution?

- Personal response
- What would you do in this situation?
- Have you experienced something similar?
- Which character do you understand best?
- What advice would you give?
- Retelling
- Retell this episode in three sentences.
- Tell your partner what happened first, next and finally.
- Summarize the most important event.
- Retell the story from another character's point of view.