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THE THREE STUDENTS (A LESSON BASED ON A PLAYSRIPT)

Flora Debora Floris

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In our previous issues we have already devoted space to some ideas on expanding dramatic texts. In this lesson plan, another book of the Oxford Bookworms Playscripts series is used as the basic teaching material. The interesting writing and speaking techniques offered here can, however, easily be adapted to any teaching situation.

LEVEL	Intermediate
TIME	90 minutes
TEXT	<i>The Three Students, Scene 8</i> (Sherlock Holmes: <i>Two Plays</i> . Oxford Bookworms Playscripts. 1999)
BEFORE CLASS	<p>Prior to class the students are asked to read Scene 8 of <i>The Three Students</i>.</p> <p>You will need:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Handouts / OHP transparencies (see appendix)
IN CLASS	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The students work in pairs and answer the questions in <i>Handout 1</i>. Ask some pairs to report their answers to the class. 2. Distribute <i>Handouts 2a</i> and <i>2b</i>. Each pair will only get one of them. The pairs are asked to continue writing the letter based on the opening sentence in their handout. After a time limit (e.g. 5 minutes), ask them to stop writing even if they are in the middle of the sentence. 3. Each pair passes their letter to the pair on their left. The new pair must read what has been written and continue writing the composition. The students are allowed to correct mistakes in the previous sentences if they find any. The procedure is repeated as in step 2. After about 20 minutes, all students are asked to stop writing and their "collaborative" letters are shared with the whole class. 4. Ask the students to work in groups of 4 and do the task in <i>Handout 3</i>. The students perform in front of the class.

Reference

White, Ronald V. (ed). 1995. *New Ways in Teaching Writing*. Virginia: TESOL.

Handout 1

Work in pairs and answer the following questions:

1. Why didn't Bannister report what Gilchrist had done to Mr. Soames?
2. What did Bannister suggest Gilchrist to do?
3. Did Bannister get punishment from Mr. Soames? What do you think about it?

Handout 2a

Dear Mr. Soames,

I believe that Mr. Bannister should not be punished.

Handout 2b

Dear Mr. Soames,

I suggest you to punish Mr. Bannister.

Handout 3

Work in groups of 4 and do the following task:

Mr. Soames has already received 2 letters from 2 different people. One of them says that Mr. Soames should punish Mr. Bannister, while the other suggests he should not. Mr. Soames is rather confused in making his decision. That is why he holds a meeting with his 3 colleagues. He wants his colleagues to help him.

Your task now is to create a short conversation among these 4 people. What will they say at the meeting? In the end, what will Mr. Soames do?

You have approximately 15 minutes to prepare your conversation. After that, you will be asked to perform it in front of the class. While you perform, you are not allowed to read anything.

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