

JL

Janua linguarum - Vrata v jezike



Topic: *LANGUAGE DISCOVERY*

Class: 2nd (nine-year primary school)

Age: 8

Duration: five school hours (5 x 45 minutes)

Tried out: June, September 2001

School: OŠ Vodmat Ljubljana

Teacher: Nevenka Angelski

Cross-curricular links: Slovene, Social studies

Holiday task: *Remember or put down a few unfamiliar words you will hear during the holidays*

1 hour

Aims and objectives

- to make students aware that language is a means of communication,
- to make students aware that people communicate in different languages,
- to motivate students to explore different language environments.

Proposed procedure

1. Preparation: the teacher prepares questions for each group about how they would react or behave in different situations in which they would need to use a foreign language.

2. Activities: students work as a whole class and in groups. Groups answer the questions. They are invited to do some language research during the summer holidays: to remember or put down a few unfamiliar words they will hear during the summer holidays.

After the holidays: *Reporting on language discovery during the holidays*

1 hour

Aims and objectives

- to help students develop a positive attitude to their mother tongue and other languages and cultures,
- to make students aware that people communicate in different languages,
- to help students broaden their language horizons.

Proposed procedure

1. Preparation: none

2. Activities: students work as a whole class and in groups. Students say the words they discovered during the holidays and the teacher puts them down on the blackboard. Other students try to guess the meaning and justify their decision. Afterwards, the student who discovered the word describes the context. The teacher helps to clarify the meaning.

Creating new words

(1 hour + 2-hour workshop)

Aims and objectives

- to motivate students to find out when and how to greet,
- to motivate students to play with language and create playful and nonsensical words.

Proposed procedure

1. Preparation: The teacher needs a story about Gaja and ET* (taken from Porenta, A. 2000. *Prek črk in besed: delovni zvezek za slovenščino v 2. razredu devetletne osnovne šole* – the workbook for grade 2 of nine-year primary school. Ljubljana: DZS).

2. Activities: students work as a whole class and in groups. The teacher reads the story about Gaja and ET to the students. Will students be as willing as Gaja and ET to learn an unknown language? Since ET speaks a totally different language, Gaja has to make an effort to understand what ET wishes to tell her. With the help of the picture in the book students discover the meaning of ET's words. Students »travel« from planet to planet and create extraterrestrial words for greetings, names of planets, their inhabitants and vehicles. Finally, students report about their word creations, justify them and »translate« them into Slovene.

***The story begins like this:** » After a storm the earth girl called Gaja set off to a forest to pick berries. There were rainbows colouring the sky. One ended just near the girl.

And look, an unusual vehicle came sliding along the rainbow right to a meadow! It stopped for a while, launched a smallish spaceship, started to spin and off it span in the same direction it had come from.

On to the meadow comes a little ET toddling ... «*

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