

Carapace

After Reading Activities

Recipes (1)

A crowd of bathers turned up looking for beer and his beach *roti*, so I said I had better go

What time can you come out to eat tonight? Vijay asked. I've made a special dish: *fantastic*, with those big prawns!



Vijay was a cook at a small beach restaurant. *Roti* is a traditional Sri Lankan dish, while prawns – big or otherwise! – are popular everywhere, if you can afford them!

Here are some Sri Lankan recipes, one for *roti* and one for prawns.

ROTI INGREDIENTS

500 g self-raising flour
200 g grated coconut
50 g margarine
1 tsp salt
Warm water as required

METHOD:

- Mix together flour and salt.
- Add margarine into flour and knead with fingertips until coarse crumbs form.
- Add the coconut and mix thoroughly.
- Add warm water gradually and keep mixing until a smooth dough forms.
- Divide dough into 4-5 equal size balls.
- On a floured surface roll each ball to a thin circle 4-5 inches in diameter.
- Cook on a hot griddle. Keep turning on both sides until Roti is cooked.

FRIED HOT PRAWNS INGREDIENTS

750 g prawns
1 pickled lime, thinly sliced
2 onions, sliced
1 large green or red pepper, sliced
3 cloves garlic
2 pieces ginger
1 tsp black ground mustard seed
1 tsp sugar
2 tsps finely chopped chillies
100 ml vinegar
oil for frying
salt to taste

METHOD:

- Deep fry the prawns and drain the oil.
- Blend the mustard, garlic and ginger with vinegar.
- Add sugar, chilli powder and enough salt.
- Mix well to form a thick mixture.
- Add thinly sliced pickled lime.
- Add the fried prawn and green (or red) pepper.
- Mix well.
- Serve with rice & curry.

1. Match the following pictures of food with the recipes above.



A



B



C



D



E



F

2. Match the actions shown below with the cooking instructions indicated in the two recipes.



A



B



C



D

3. In the recipes, the only method of cooking mentioned (apart from 'cook'!) is 'fry'. There are, of course, many other ways to cook. Here are four: two are carried out on top of the cooker or over a direct fire, and two are carried out **in** the oven. Which is which?

boil

bake

roast

grill

4. In the recipes above most of the verbs were given as **imperatives**. This is because they are instructions. Add the **imperatives** above to the ones in the box below.

simmer stir

Now use some of these imperatives to complete the new recipe below.

KIRRI HODI INGREDIENTS

1 medium Onion sliced
 1 hot green pepper sliced
 4-6 curry leaves
 2 pieces rampe
 2 cloves garlic
 2 tsps Raw curry powder
 1/8 tsp. Turmeric powder
 1/8 tsp. finely ground, dry mustard
 1/2 tsp. fenugreek seeds
 1 tsp Salt
 1 tsp medium tomato (cut into pieces)
 1 cup water
 2 cups thick Coconut milk

METHOD: __(1)___ all ingredients (except coconut milk) in a saucepan and cook on slow heat. When the onions are soft and tomatoes are cooked, __(2)___ coconut milk. __(3)___ for a little while. __(4)___ all the time. Do not let the mixture boil. Take off heat, adjust salt and __(5)___ a squeeze of lemon juice. __(6)___ continuously after adding coconut milk to prevent the milk from coagulating.

5. Here is a recipe for a good dinner party (which requires more than good food, of course). It appears like a poem.

Mix together some good friends
 Add a little happiness.
 Stir in a teaspoon of gossip.
 Leave to cook over a slow heat.



Using the model for a good dinner party, and the examples of the recipes above, write your own recipe for a successful relationship (with a boyfriend or girlfriend, or for a marriage). If it looks like a poem, so much the better!

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After Reading Activities

Recipes (2)

What is your favourite recipe from your own country? Can you describe what it is, how it is made and what it tastes like - in English?

Here is a recipe for a popular English dish. Translate this into your own language, but keep the same format. Do not translate the title.

APPLE CRUMBLE

Ingredients

Crumble:

300g/10½oz plain flour, sieved pinch of salt
175g/6oz unrefined brown sugar
200g/7oz unsalted butter, cubed at room temperature
Knob of butter for greasing

Filling:

450g/1lb apples, peeled, cored and cut into 1cm/½in piece
50g/2oz unrefined brown sugar
1 tbsp plain flour
1 pinch of ground cinnamon



Method

1. Preheat the oven to 180C/350F/Gas 4.
2. Place the flour and sugar in a large bowl and mix well. Taking a few cubes of butter at a time rub into the flour mixture. Keep rubbing until the mixture resembles breadcrumbs.
2. Place the fruit in a large bowl and sprinkle over the sugar. Stir well being careful not to break up the fruit.
3. Butter a 24cm/9in ovenproof dish. Spoon the fruit mixture into the bottom, then sprinkle the crumble mixture on top.
4. Bake in the oven for 40-45 minutes until the crumble is browned and the fruit mixture bubbling.
5. Serve with thick cream or custard.

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After Reading Activities

Arranged Marriages

Activity One

The following is a brief description of arranged marriages in Japan. After you have read it, look at the activities that follow.

Activities

In Japan, there are two types of marriage: the so-called love marriage and the arranged marriage. The love marriage is the type we are familiar with in the West, where the couple meet independently without the assistance of a go-between or matchmaker. Although the arranged marriage was predominant in the past, the majority of Japanese marriages today are love marriages. Estimates vary, placing the proportion of arranged marriages at anywhere from 25 to 50 percent.

When a young woman reaches marriageable age (now about 25 for a Japanese woman), she and her parents compile a packet of information about her, including a photograph of her in kimono and descriptions of her family background, education, hobbies, accomplishments, and interests. Her parents then inquire among their friends and acquaintances to see if anyone knows a man who would be a suitable husband for her. The person who does becomes the go-between, showing the packet to the potential bridegroom and, if both parties are interested, arranging a meeting between them. (The man provides a photograph and information as well.) Such meetings often take place in the restaurant of an expensive hotel. The go-between is present, usually along with representatives from both families. If the young couple feel inclined, they will begin dating, with marriage as a possible - but not inevitable - result. It is not uncommon for a woman to have 10 or more such introductions before she finds the man she wants to marry.

The young man and woman make the final decision about marriage between themselves, though they seek the advice and approval of their parents and their go-between. Some Japanese feel that romantic love is not the most important ingredient in a successful marriage; perhaps this belief is borne out by the fact that the divorce rate in Japan generally is lower than that in many countries in Europe. The divorce rate for arranged marriages in Japan is lower than for love marriages.

1. Think about the Japanese system of arranged marriage. Do you think it would work in your culture? Why or why not?
2. Imagine you live in Japan. Make up an information package about yourself, as described above, to present to a go-between. Based on your description of yourself, what kind of person would the go-between look for?
3. How did your parents meet? Take a class survey.

Activity Two

In the following short article, the writer is very much against arranged marriages. She makes five main points. Write your response to each of her points.

Does “arranged marriage” matter?

I don't think so. And here's why:

1. It assumes that a man/woman capable of voting, drinking, driving, working in a professional environment etc. etc. is incapable of finding a lifelong companion for himself/herself.
2. Since “arranged marriages” are usually, if not always “arranged” by the families of the people getting married, it follows that the “criteria” for a “match” are significantly different than what individuals would apply. For instance while I would look for attributes like compassion, intelligence, wit, tolerance(for me!), love, career, physical chemistry and mental-connect(not necessarily in that order) in a potential wife, my parents would probably look for attributes like family, career, respect for elders, ability/willingness to adjust etc. in a potential daughter-in-law. Although not wrong *per se*, it brings together individuals who might not have liked each other had they met in normal life. Something about that strikes me as very artificial.
3. It assumes that marriage is something that needs to be done with at a particular time of our lives(hence the family pressures from the time you hit your mid-twenties), instead of leaving individuals free to mould their lives to the way they want and marry when they feel the “need” for it.
4. It is one of the primary carriers of social inequality in modern India even today. Marrying into the same caste, giving/taking “gifts”(or dowry as it more popularly known!), evaluating women and men using different criteria and the devastating amounts of money that are spent on organising “lavish” weddings by even poor people are just some of the reasons why I say this.
5. Instead of falling in love and then getting deciding to be together for the rest of their lives, “arranged marriages” are based on the notion that you decide on being together for the rest of your lives first, and *then* fall in love. Although falling in love is not a necessary condition for remaining married. *That is plain stupid!* I'll use what I call the “Lawn-mower Argument” to prove this: instead of buying a lawn-mower because the grass in your lawn needs to get mowed, how would it feel to buy a lawn-mower first and then wait to move into a house with a garden/grass in it?

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Lonely Hearts

Sometimes people put small advertisements in magazines to see if they can find a partner. The challenge here is to say something interesting about yourself in as few words as possible. Look at these examples of small ads in a lonely hearts column of a magazine:



Questions: Which advertiser(s) a, b, c, d, e, or f

1. Thinks they are wonderful?
2. Is probably older than the rest?
3. Is the most serious?
4. Just wants a good time?
5. Isn't fussy?
6. Is most demanding?

Look at one advert in detail and see how economical they have been with words and meanings.

Now write your own 'lonely hearts' advert for the same magazine. You have a maximum of 35 words (or else you have to pay more!)

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Dear Agony Aunt

An 'agony aunt' is someone who writes for magazines, answering personal questions and offering advice to readers who write in asking for help.

Here is an example of a reader's letter, and the 'agony aunt's' reply.

Dear Ann.

My name is Betty and I am 14 years old, I believe that I am very fat and although I am only 32 kilos, I want to keep on dieting. Everyone thinks that I am sick but I am not, I want to keep on dieting until I am down to 19 kilos but all of my friends are threatening to stop being my friend if I don't eat. Normally I throw up after I eat so my family won't suspect anything. Can you help me?

Dear Betty,

If you are 32 kilos then you are not fat. So you must stop thinking you are. There is also no need for you to continue on dieting. If you do not stop you will lose your family your friends and your health. So please start eating normally.

1. Now imagine that the girl in the story 'Carapace' has written to a magazine asking for help to solve her problem. Here are the notes she made before writing her letter. Can you use these notes to write the letter for her?

Problem – caught between 2 men. 1 mum wants for me – rich, Australia, good life; different. Other – poor, doesn't think of future, mum wouldn't like; but fun – I like him. Also – like my home & Sri Lanka. Can't decide. Help!

2. Once you've written the letter, give it to someone else in the class, and receive one yourself. Now imagine you are the 'agony aunt' of a magazine. Write a brief letter giving your advice.



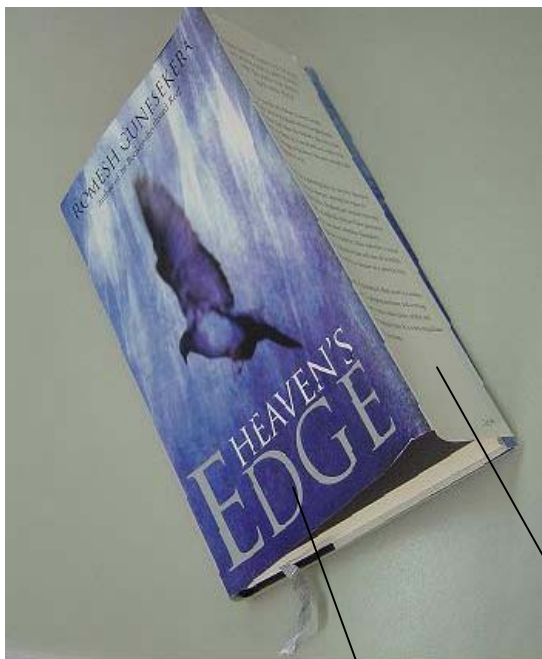
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After Reading Activities

Designing a Cover

Now you have read the story, you are going to design the book dust-jacket which represents the story 'Carapace'. A dust jacket is the loose cover which you find on hard-back copies of books, and they usually contain a representative picture, plus a very small amount of information about the book and author on the inside covers (known as 'the blurb').

This is a picture of the front of the dust cover of Romesh Gunsekera's novel, 'Heaven's Edge'. The front has an artist's impression of events from the novel. The front inside cover has some information about the story, and the back inside cover has some information about the author.



Front of dust cover
Graphic design



Front inside cover
'blurb' about the book

Back inside cover
'blurb' about the author

Design your cover for 'Carapace'.

What happened next?

What do you think the girl in the story did - did she get married to Anura Pereira? - did she stay with Vijay? - did she leave Vijay but stay at home? Or did she do something completely different? Give reasons for your choice.