

## Lesson plan December

### Topic

Love poems

### Aims

- To encourage students to collaborate in a group project.
- To develop students' creative writing skills
- To show students that creative writing can be fun.

### Age group

Teenagers and young adults

### Level

A2, B1, B2

### Time

50 - 60 minutes +

### Materials

An audio recording of a song

### Introduction

In this lesson students will collaborate in a creative writing task. First they will listen to a song and write down words and phrases they hear. Then they will work in groups to write a poem, following some simple guidelines and using their collective words and phrases as a starting point. The learners will write a love poem that is 'corny' on purpose. This technique removes common reservations that some learners have about writing poetry. Learners will read their poems at the end of the lesson.

### Procedure

#### 1. Warmer (5 minutes)

Choose an English song. Songs that work well are those which are difficult to understand; some pop songs for example. The learners have to listen carefully to identify single words or phrases. It is a good idea to choose a song that is 'above' the level of your learners' listening skills.

Tell learners that they have to listen to the song and write down words and phrases

	that they hear.
<b>2. (10 minutes)</b>	<p>Write the words 'corny' and 'naff' on the board and ask learners if they know what the words mean. If no one knows, ask for a volunteer to look the words up in a dictionary and to tell the rest of the class. Ask if there is an equivalent word in their own language(s). Ask what kind of things can be corny or naff. It is important that learners fully understand the terms.</p> <p>Explain to learners that they are going to work in groups to write a love poem. They are going to use the words and phrases they wrote from the song. Reassure learners by telling them that the only* rule for the poem is that it <i>has to be</i> corny or naff.</p> <p>*The poem doesn't need a specific number of lines, there are no rules about rhyming, learners can use as many or as few of their collected words as they like, etc.</p>
<b>3. (20 - 25 minutes)</b>	Put learners into small groups to write their poems. Monitor students as they speak and encourage them to share their ideas. Learners should write their rough draft and then check it, edit it and produce a final draft. It is useful to tell learners how much time they have for this stage. 20 minutes should be adequate.
<b>4. (10 - 15 minutes)</b>	Invite a volunteer from each group to read their poem for the rest of the class. Praise their efforts and especially the 'corniness' of the poems.
<b>Optional follow up task</b>	Make a classroom display of the poems.

**Contributed by**

Katherine Bilsborough