

FILM ENGLISH

Gabe and Chris López

Language level: Intermediate (B1) - Upper Intermediate (B2)

Learner type: Teens and adults

Time: 90 minutes

Activity: Writing, talking about transgender children, watching a short video, speaking about their reactions to the film

Topic: Transgender children

Language: Words beginning with prefix "trans", vocabulary related to transgender children

Materials: Short video



Overview

This ELT lesson plan is designed around a short video by Story Corps in which a transgender child talks to his mother, and the theme of transgender children. Students practise vocabulary starting with the prefix "trans", discuss questions related to transgender children, watch a short film and answer comprehension questions, and talked about how they video made them feel.

Step 1

Write "trans" on the board, and elicit or explain that it is a prefix with the meaning of "across", "beyond", "changing thoroughly" or "transverse." Elicit a few examples of words with "trans" such as "translator", "transport" and "transmit"

Step 2

Pair your students. Ask them to think of as many words as they can which begin with the prefix "trans". If their mother tongue is Latin-based tell them that there are many cognates in English beginning with "trans". Give them a time limit of 3 minutes.

Step 3

Elicit or explain the following words:

Transfer, transmission, transit, transition, transportation, translate, translation, transform, transformation, transfusion, transparent, transparency, transcription, transatlantic.

Step 4

Ask students to write 5 sentences using words beginning with "trans". Give a few examples such as:

"The translator had to catch public transport to hand in her translation of a transcript on time."

"I caught a transatlantic flight to go to a conference in New York."

"My grandmother had a blood transfusion when she was in hospital."

Set a time limit of 5 minutes.

Step 5

Go through the sentences and write up the most creative or unusual.

Step 6

Write "transgender" on the board. Elicit or explain that it is an adjective that relates to a person whose sense of personal identity and gender does not correspond with their birth sex. That is to say that if a person is born as a boy but feels like and identifies as a girl, that person is transgender.

Step 7

Ask your students to discuss the following questions with their partner:

- What do you know about transgender children?

- What have you heard about transgender children in the news or on the Internet?
- What problems do you think a transgender child might experience?
- What problems do you think a parent of a transgender child might experience?

Step 8

Hold a whole class discussion based on the questions from the previous stage.

Step 9

Tell your students they are going to watch a short video in which Gabe, a transgender child, talks with his mother, Chris, about his experience of being a transgender child. Write up or dictate the following questions:

- When did things change for Gabe?
- What does Gabe worry will happen when he grows up?
- Why was Gabe worried about telling his mother that he was transgender?
- Why does his mother worry about him?

As they watch their task is to answer the questions.

Play the video twice.

Link: <https://vimeo.com/185823469>

Step 10

Get feedback from the whole class on their answers to the questions.

Step 11

Play the video again; this time pause at each caption and go through vocabulary and expressions such as:

- "We're bros" - a colloquial expression meaning to be good friends.
- "I always got your back" - a colloquial expression meaning I will always support you.
- "to pee" - to urinate
- "gonna be" - the informal spelling and pronunciation of "going to be".
- "'Cause" - the abbreviated form of because.
- "to make me upset" - to make me sad.

Step 12

Ask your students to discuss the following questions in small groups:

- How did the film make you feel?
- What words would you use to describe Gabe?
- What words would you use to describe Chris, his mother?
- How would you describe their relationship?

Step 13

Hold a whole class discussion based on the questions from the previous stage.

I hope you enjoy the lesson.

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