The School for Training is a small specialist teacher training institute in Barcelona, providing innovative face-to-face and online courses of the highest quality for language teachers from around the world. The school was founded and is run by the award-winning writer and trainer Kieran Donaghy who has extensive experience of designing and delivering courses for teachers. Find out more about courses: https://theschoolfortraining.com/

The Joy of Books

Language level: Intermediate(B1)- Upper-intermediate (B2.1)
Learner type: All ages
Time: 90 minutes
Activity: Talking about books and reading; watching 2 short film; writing a narrative
Topic: Books and reading
Language: Book vocabulary; narrative tenses
Materials: 2 short films; discussion questions; PowerPoint
Overview
This lesson is designed around 2 short films and the theme of books. The first short film is *The Joy of Books* by Sean Ohlenkamp is a stop-motion short film which features books joyfully coming to life at night. *The Fantastic Flying Books of Mr. Morris Lessmore* is an Oscar-nominated animation by William Joyce and Brandon Oldenburg. Students discuss books and reading, and write a narrative based on a film.

Step 1
Put your students into pairs and ask them to come up with as many genres of books as they can. Give them 2 minutes and then get feedback from the whole class.

Step 2
Ask your students this question:
What happens in a bookshop when it is closed at night?
Tell your students they are going to watch a short film which shows what happens in a bookshop at night.

Link: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SKVcQnyEIT8](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SKVcQnyEIT8)

Step 3
Show the film again and ask your students to name as many types of books as they can. Pause when you see a particular type of book.

Step 4
Write the following sentence on the board or pause the film at 1:49:
There’s nothing quite like a real book.
Ask your students if they agree.
Give your students the discussion questions on books and ask them to discuss the questions in small groups.

Step 5
Tell your students that they are going to watch a short film which is called:
*The Fantastic Flying Books of Mr. Morris Lessmore*
Alternatively, show them this image.
Put them into pairs and ask them what they think the film will be about. After 2 minutes get feedback from the whole class.

Step 6
Now put your students into small groups, show them these images taken from the film and ask them to put the images in order and then to write the narrative of the film. You can also the images in the downloadable document.
After 10 minutes get feedback and ask one student from each group to read out their narrative.

**Step 7**
Now show the film and ask students to compare their narratives with the story of the film.
Link: [http://vimeo.com/35404908](http://vimeo.com/35404908)
After watching the film, get feedback.

**Step 8**
Ask your students what the message of the film is.
Homework
Show your students this image.

Morris Lessmore loved words. He loved stories. He loved books. His life was a book of his own writing, one orderly page after another. He would open it every morning and write of his joys and sorrows, of all that he knew and everything that he hoped.

Give your students the link to the film and ask them to watch it again at home. They should write a story beginning with the first paragraph above to tell a story based on the film.

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