

China Teachers Program

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The lesson that I enjoyed the very most was a lesson that I called, "The Lady or the Tiger".

I loved this story as a teenager and told my students how much I did. Because it was something that I was excited about it was very easy to teach. I was comfortable with the lesson and enjoyed sharing it with my students. I have learned that that is one of the vital keys is teaching-believe in what you are teaching. We both had a great experience.

I started by showing a ten- minute version of the story, "The Lady or the Tiger" that I found on U Tube. There are many different versions. I picked one that was only the written words with an occasional picture and a little dramatic music. The story was simple and since it involved love and the possibility of death it kept my student's attention. Having the students hear the story and read along with it helped in the activity afterwards. At the end of the power point the author of the story asks this question, "What came out of the door? The Lady or the Tiger?"

My classes have 32 students. I divided them now into eight groups of four. I told them that they had to come up with a unanimous decision in their group as to what came out of the door-the lady or the tiger. I then allowed them time to discuss this-in English of course. I went around to the different groups listening to their arguments. This did get them talking!! It was fun to see how the girls felt and how the boys felt. After a while (maybe 15 minutes) I went up to the chalk board. I called on each group and asked them what they had decided. I then wrote Lady or Tiger after their group number. I had a spokesperson from each group explain why they had decided on their answer. The groups really paid attention and cheered with or disagreed with the group that was explaining their position.

I have seven classes in all seven classes it went exactly in half. Half of the class said the lady and half of the class said the tiger. However, one group found the perfect answer. They said that the Lady came out and then the young man grabbed her and opened the door to the tiger and had the tiger eat her so that he could then marry the princess. Read the story and you will understand how funny this is!! At the end of each class I then shared that answer with the class. I told them that I thought that was a very clever answer. It was fun!! The room was full of much English talking and that was the point. It was also down loaded by many students who kept the story.