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Reading Corner 1: Blogs

Summary

There are 5 short text related to the theme of blogs.

Text 1 is an extract from a blog by a teenage boy called Mickey. He's a student and he's just done a music exam.

Text 2 is an extract from a school blog giving information about a concert that is being organised and asking people to participate.

Text 3 is from a chatroom. Three people give their opinions about a new CD.

Text 4 is an extract from a blog by a girl called KayJay. It's her first blog entry. She's from Australia and she's the drummer in a band called The Leaders.

Text 5 is a blog message from a boy called Felix. He wants to buy tickets for a concert.

Activity

You are a famous musician and you are on tour in Europe. Write two or three entries in your website blog.

- Decide who you are.
- Decide which country or countries you are in when you write your blog.
- Think about information your fans might want to know.
- Write your blog about 2 or 3 days of the tour.

Reading Corner 2: Many communities in one nation

Summary

The text is about the history of immigration in the USA. It gives information about the languages which are spoken in the USA and the first communities there. It explains why there are different communities, how immigration developed and how Africans were taken there from 1619-1886 as slaves. Finally, it describes the situation today.

Activity

You are an immigrant. You are going to be interviewed by a journalist. Decide which country you are from and prepare answers to the journalist's questions.

- 1 Why did you decided to emigrate?
- 2 How is your life different here in America from your old life?

- 3 Have you had any problems with the language or the new culture? What about work or school?
- 4 What do you miss from your old country?
- 5 What do you like most about living here?

In class, work in pairs. Interview each other – first one of you is the journalist and the other is the immigrant. Then, change roles. Alternatively, you can act out your interviews for the rest of the class.

Reading Corner 3: Poems about water

Summary

There are two limericks and two poems about water.

Activity

You are part of a team which is exploring the Amazon River. You have an amazing adventure. Write the story of your adventure.

1 Think about the answers to the questions:

- What is the adventure about? E.g. an accident on the river (what happens?), an animal (which?), a strange discovery (what? ancient ruins? treasure? a scientific discovery?) or meeting someone or some people (who?) etc.
- What do you do? Describe the adventure.
- What happens in the end?

2 Plan your story. Write three paragraphs:

- The introduction
- The main story
- The end

Reading Corner 4: Space city

Summary

The text is a short science fiction story about a group of people who leave Earth because it is uninhabitable due to problems of climate change, deforestation and drought. They go to live on a planet called Necon, but they always plan to return to Earth when it is habitable again. They regularly check data on air quality, water level and climate using special satellite links. Finally, Earth is habitable again and they start on the long journey home. When they are nearly there, they have a problem with their computers. They solve the problem, but to their surprise, their monitors show that Earth is now inhabited by robots.

Activity

Your spaceship lands on Earth. You are the captain of the spaceship. When you open the door, there is a group of robots waiting. In pairs, write the dialogue between the spaceship captain and the robot leader. In class, act out your dialogues. The dialogue should last 1-2 minutes. Vote on the best dialogue.

In the dialogue:

- Explain to the robot leader that you are not hostile.
- Explain why you went to Necon and why you returned.
- Explain what you want now that you have returned to Earth.
- Find a solution with the robot leader.

Reading Corner 5: Detective work

Summary

The texts are summaries of sections of a short story and extracts from the story. The story is about a 16-year-old boy, Paul, who gets a job in a museum. After he starts work, a valuable necklace is stolen and Paul becomes the main suspect. He realises that the necklace is hidden in a pirate display in the museum and decides to find out who the thief is. He catches the thief, but discovers that someone had paid the thief to steal the necklace. When the thief is about to tell Paul who paid him, he is shot by a mysterious woman.

Activity

Write your own ending to the story. Use your answers to the questions below to help you.

- Who was the woman?
- Why did she pay Derek to steal the necklace?
- Did she manage to escape?
- Did Paul get the necklace back?
- What happened in the end?