

Golden Autumn (teacher's notes)

1. Warm-up (Activity 1) 5 mins

Aims: to break the ice and foster a safe environment for learning.

Procedure: Play the recording of [Fariborz Lachini's 'Golden Autumn'](#) (an extract ~1min) and ask the students to say how it makes them feel. You can ask them to listen to it with their eyes closed and then describe what they imagined when listening to this tune. Keep it brief and simple. Accept any ideas.

Reveal the name of the tune and the topic of the lesson. Ask what 3 things your students associate with autumn (and, if you have time, why), if they like it or not.

2. Lead-in (Activity 2) 5 mins

Aims: to generate interest in the topic and revise basic autumn vocabulary.

Procedure: Students read the rhymes and guess the answers. You can ask them to work in pairs and read the rhymes to one another to guess. After they finish ask them what all words they guessed have in common. Elicit that 'fall' is an American version of 'autumn'.

Answers: pumpkin, red, yellow, brown, corn, Halloween, fall, crops, leaf, school.

3. Reading for Gist (Activity 3) 5 mins

Aims: to read the text quickly for a general comprehension.

Procedure: Show the students a picture of a girl in autumn scene. Ask them who they think she is and if she likes autumn. Ask what possible reasons to like autumn there are. Accept any ideas.

Tell them they are going to read a blog post by this girl and find out if their predictions are true.

Question to answer: What is the main reason she likes autumn?

Set a time limit (2-3 min) and let them read the text. Discuss the answer in pairs and as a whole class.

Answer: it's her birthday in September.

4. Pre-teaching Blocking Vocabulary (Activity 4) 8 mins

Aims: to unblock words necessary to understand the text and complete the task.

Procedure: Ask students to match the words with the definitions. They can use the text to help them figure out the meaning of the word. Model and drill the pronunciation, check the meaning of some words.

Optional: ask to make sentences with the new words.

Answers: 1f, 2i, 3a, 4g, 5j, 6b, 7e, 8c, 9d, 10h

5. Reading for details (Activity 5) 10 mins

Aims: to read the text for deeper comprehension.

Procedure: Ask students to look through the questions they will need to answer. Check if everything is clear. Let them read the text again, more carefully and find the answers to the questions. Let them discuss the answers in pairs and as a whole class.

6. Productive Follow-up (Speaking) (Activity 6) 10-12 min

Aims: to to personalise the text and practice speaking for fluency.

Procedure: Let the students discuss the questions in pairs or small groups. Encourage them to ask follow-up questions to get more details. After they finish get a content feedback from them.

7. Autumn Idioms (Activity 7) 5 mins

Aim: to introduce some common autumn idioms.

Procedure: Ask students what the most popular autumn fruit (apart from pumpkin) is. Elicit that this is an apple. Show the idioms to your students and let them discuss what they might mean. If you don't have enough time, let them choose 2-3 idioms to work with. After they offer their ideas, clarify the meaning of the idioms. Let them choose their favourite and explain why.

Answers:

1) The apple doesn't fall far from the tree. - kids are like their parents (synonym: Like father, like son).

2) One rotten apple spoils the bunch. - a single bad influence can ruin what would otherwise remain good

3) That's like comparing apples and oranges. - a false analogy, contrasting two

things which cannot be compared against each other (e.g. you cannot compare jazz to heavy metal)

4) You are the apple of my eye. - favorite girl, the girl one desires

5) He is rotten to the core. - if a person or organization is rotten to the core, they behave in a way that is not honest or moral

6) An apple a day keeps the doctor away. - This means that eating an apple each day can help to keep you healthy

8. Sum up 3 mins

Summarise the lesson and tell students what results they have achieved (Now you can ... After our reading and speaking lesson you will be able to....).

Ask them if they have any questions.

Conduct delayed error correction if needed.

Homework: write your own blog post about autumn or another season. Make it either about what you like about the season or what you dislike. Let the students publish their blog posts on <https://padlet.com/> Let them comment under each other's posts.