



WordPowered

WordPowered brings together teachers of English from a variety of backgrounds by using short stories, poetry and film.

The project offers a place where creative reading and creative writing can intermingle. Each part of the project is work in progress and each part requires the active participation of teachers and their students to help develop a full set of resources.

There are three parts to the project:

In Words

- short stories and poetry are explored with EFL teachers in mind and where the emphasis is on using literature as a tool to teach language.

In View

- short films made to accompany spoken poetry are used to explore the potential for student engagement and response.

YouWrite

- teachers are invited to submit their own short stories, longer fiction or poetry for publication on line to share with fellow teachers of English . Readers have their own space to comment on what they read.

In Words

Kits:

Cool Room 3 by *Regi Claire*

Max is about to go on a weekend trip with his family. As the journey starts, the fractious relationship with Rita, his wife, comes to a climax.

'Cool Room 3' is a short story by Regi Claire, and was first published in her collection 'Fighting It', published by Two Ravens Press in 2009, and shortlisted for the Saltire Book of the Year Award.

The teaching kit contains a pioneering example of 'hyperfiction' for classroom use.

http://www.wordpowered.org/InWords/cool_room.html

Plastic Fantastic by *Levi Tafari*

'Plastic Fantastic' is a collection of 16 'dub' poems performed by the poet Levi Tafari. This set of classroom materials have been designed to go with the audio CD 'Plastic Fantastic'.

The audio of the poems can also be downloaded.

<http://www.wordpowered.org/InWords/plastic.html>

National Accident Helpline by *Francesca Beard*

Francesca Beard's poem takes us into the rather murky world of accident claimants - and debt. Suitable for students aged 15+ this short, wry poem leads into a range of topical discussions.

<http://www.wordpowered.org/InWords/accident.html>

Goat by *Romesh Gunesequera*

Byron is so excited about his new girlfriend. But the narrator of the story has already heard some disturbing things about her. They arrange to meet up, but ...

Romesh Gunesequera's story, suitable for learners of English 15+, is a cunning mixture of suggestion and intrigue with someone, literally, being framed at the end.

<http://www.wordpowered.org/InWords/goat.html>

Not Dead Yet, Lily? by *Ron Butlin*

Elderly widow Lily Williams lives alone in a polite, suburban neighbourhood. She finds a novel way of dealing with her neighbours' apparent concern for her wellbeing.

Edinburgh poet laureate Ron Butlin's story explores swearing as an (in)appropriate means of communication. Suitable for students 15+

<http://www.wordpowered.org/InWords/lily.html>

Child Holding Yacht by *Lawrence Sail*

'Child Holding a Yacht' is the first of six poems by Lawrence Sail, which are presented here in contrasted pairs.

Lawrence Sail's poetry is lyrical and personal, rich in imagery and perception. The language he employs requires careful attention to detail. Suitable for older students.

<http://www.wordpowered.org/InWords/yacht.html>

The Storm by Louise Cooper

As the storm threatens, parents desperately gather their children around them to protect them. But can they do it in time, and is everything as it first seems?

Louise Cooper's little story, 'The Storm' is suitable for use with students aged 13+, and the materials provide for up to 3 hours of classroom activity.

<http://www.wordpowered.org/InWords/storm.html>

In View

Poetry and Animation

Archaeology

'Archaeology' is based on a poem by Gaia Holmes and a film directed by Lisa Risbec. The running time for the film is 2 minutes and 9 seconds.

The poem examines the difficulty of consigning a love affair to the past and how our five senses can betray us into remembering what we wish to forget. It is suitable for teenage and adult students.

<http://www.wordpowered.org/commafilm/commaarchaeology.html>

Burger Man

'Burger Man' is based on a poem by Gaia Holmes and an animated film by Kate Jessop. The running time for the film is 1 minute 57 seconds.

The poem gives us a glimpse of life as a fast food seller in an inner city area where aggressive behaviour and threats are a way of life. Not suitable for people who are frightened of ketchup.

<http://www.wordpowered.org/commafilm/commaburger.html>

Claustrophobia

'Claustrophobia' is based on a poem by Gaia Holmes and a film by Charlotte Caetano. The running time for the film is 1 minute 15 seconds.

In the poem we find ourselves on a crowded morning bus, and discomfort arises at being exposed to other people's intimate details - real or imagined. The materials are suitable for teenage or adult students.

<http://www.wordpowered.org/commafilm/commaclaustrophobia.html>

Nothing

'Nothing' is a poem by John Cooper Clarke, who is something of a legend in the UK. He's from Salford (near Manchester) which can be heard on the sound track.

It is about well, nothing, really. *Nada*. The film lasts for just 45 seconds. Not a lot.

<http://www.wordpowered.org/commafilm/commanothing.html>

Sandwich Rap

Dan Antopolski's 'Sandwich Rap' is a slightly different departure for WordPowered. Dan is a comedian rather than a poet and so the message is driven through humour as much as through the words (though these are frequently the same thing).

The film runs for 3.5 minutes and deals with, wait for it, sandwiches. In fact, it is an obsession about sandwiches, what they might contain and who might be on the outside of them.

<http://www.wordpowered.org/commafilm/sandwich.html>

Video Kid

Video Kid is based on a poem by Chris Wood and a short film made by Charlotte Caetano.

The running time of the film is 1 minute 22 seconds.

The poem deals with the problems of addiction to digital media. The kit explores connections between the title of the poem and film, the dictionary definition of 'addict' and any or all of the individual words (taken from the poem) or pictures (taken as screen shots taken from the film).

<http://www.wordpowered.org/commafilm/commavideo.html>

Waiting

'Waiting' is based on a poem by Julian Daniels and a film directed by Fiona Collins. The film runs for 1 minute 36 seconds. The poem deals with a problem shared by everyone: the feelings we get when we are waiting for something to happen. The teaching materials are suitable for intermediate level students of English from young teenagers upwards.

<http://www.wordpowered.org/commafilm/commawaiting.html>