

The Road Less Travelled

The end of the road?

How to keep *The Road Less Travelled* going in your class

The onestopenglish soap opera has come to an end after two successful seasons. How can you and your class get the most out of the show's finale? Here are some suggestions.



1. Change the ending!

Just before the end of the last episode, we ran a poll to see whether or not you thought Sal should marry Rich. We went with the majority of votes, but maybe you and your class disagree. Or maybe you thought Sal should have said something differently. Why not give students the transcript for Episode 15 (with the cliffhanger) and ask them to write the ending themselves? Follow this up with a dramatic reading of the different versions.

2. A letter back home

Ask students to take the role of Katie or Sal and write an email back home to her parents, telling them about the wedding. Use this exercise to review and/or focus on narrative tenses and time linkers (*first, then, after that ...*). To make this even more interactive, you could have them 'send' their emails to another student in the class, who must answer.

3. Five years later ...

Put the students in small groups and assign each group two characters (Michael and Katie, or Sal and Rich). Ask them to prepare an outline of what these characters will be doing five years after the wedding. You could point out that this plot device was used with some success on American television dramas (e.g. *Desperate Housewives*). Students read out their imagined futures for the different couples.

4. Discuss the themes

Here are some discussion questions about the main themes of *The Road Less Travelled*. Use these to finish off your classes with *The Road Less Travelled*.

- Which is better: to live in the same place you were born and be close to family and friends or to explore the world and live in different places?
- What is most important in a relationship?
- Would you be able to have a close relationship with someone who came from a completely different culture to yours?
- Do you think America is still seen as the 'land of plenty' where dreams can come true? Would you go and live there if you had the chance?
- Do you think it makes a difference if you take 'the road less travelled'?
- What are some of the most difficult decisions we have to make in life?

The Road Less Travelled

The end of the road?

Transcript

Optional ending 1: Sal doesn't marry Rich

RICH: Sal!

MM: Katie, what's wrong with your cousin?

KATIE: I don't know. Sal!

SAL: I took the road less travelled by, and that has made all the difference.

RICH: What?!

OFFICIAL: I don't understand.

SAL: I'm sorry, Rich. I love you, but I can't marry you. I can't spend my life with a person I can't trust.

RICH: Sal!

KATIE: Sal!

SAL: I'm sorry everyone, the wedding is off. Katie, let's get out of here.

RICH: Saaaaa!



Optional ending 2: Sal marries Rich

SAL: I do.

OFFICIAL: And now, I pronounce that you are husband and wife. Richard, you may kiss your bride!

RICH: With pleasure. Sal, I'm so happy. Are you happy?

SAL: Yes, yes I am. Everybody, we're married!

MM: Well, Katie. That was great. I think they look good together.

KATIE: You do? Well, I hope they'll be happy. What a year it's been.

MM: Have you thought about what you want to do?

KATIE: I'm going to stay here. I've applied for a course at the University of Berkeley.

MM: Really? That's great! What course?

KATIE: A drama course.

MM: I thought you said you didn't want to act.

KATIE: I know. But I think it could be for me. Maybe it's...

MM: Yes?

KATIE: Maybe it's the road less travelled.

MM: Maybe it is. Maybe it is.