

Want to feel like a teenager again? Just dig out the books you were forced to read at school

Level 1: Elementary / Pre-Intermediate

Article summary: The article gives the author's opinion about a nostalgic way to remember your teenage years.

Time: 60 minutes

Skills: Reading, Speaking, Writing

Language focus: Simple verb tense review (present, past, future)

Materials needed: One copy of the worksheet per student

1. Warmer

- a. This activity aims to allow students to be nostalgic about their favourite childhood or teenage books. Encourage them to recall basic information about the characters and plot for those who haven't read the same books. Then, ask them why they liked that book or why it resonated with them.

2. Key words

- a. Ask students to work individually or in pairs and match the words with their definitions. Tell them all the words appear in the article, so they can see them in context if they are unsure about their meaning. Allow a few minutes for students to check answers in pairs or groups of three before checking with the whole group.

Key:

- | | |
|--------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. <i>memory</i> | 6. <i>journalist</i> |
| 2. <i>smell</i> | 7. <i>material</i> |
| 3. <i>union</i> | 8. <i>forget</i> |
| 4. <i>surprise</i> | 9. <i>medicine</i> |
| 5. <i>term</i> | 10. <i>dishwasher</i> |

- b. Before reading the article carefully, students use some of the key words to fill the gaps in the sentences to ensure that they understand and know how the words are used in other contexts.

Key:

1. *journalist*
2. *term*
3. *surprise*
4. *memories*
5. *union*
6. *medicine*

3. Comprehension check

- a. Students answer the questions based on the information in the article. They may do this in different ways, e.g., in item 1, they may say, 'She said it was like looking at an old photo album' or something similar.

Key (suggested answers):

1. *It brought back memories.*
2. *wearing a Punkyfish T-shirt, wearing plastic butterfly clips, smelling of her mum's deodorant*
3. *It's a short book. (She was able to read it on a ferry trip to Dublin.)*
4. *Animal Farm*
5. *the view out of her English classroom, the Virginia Woolf poster on the wall, and the strange way her skirt folded under her knees*
6. *A Christmas Carol*
7. *The books will mean something different because of life experiences.*

4. Key language

- a. The activity allows students to conjugate verbs used in the article using the present perfect. As an extension activity, ask students to find more examples of the present perfect in the article.

Key:

1. *simple past*
2. *simple future*
3. *simple present*
4. *simple future*
5. *simple present*

5. Discussion

- a. Students discuss the statements from the article and provide reasons for their opinions, referring to their own experiences whenever possible.

6. In your own words

- a. Ask students to research best-selling novels for adults, teenagers, and children. Ask them to answer one or more of the questions.

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- b. Students could then present their reports to the class or share in small groups. Encourage students to share their opinions, give reasons to support their answers and ask their classmates follow-up questions.