

Literature and Drama in Language Teaching With David Farmer & Alan Pulverness



Course Overview

Literature offers learners meaningful, personal reading experiences and gives them a powerful sense of the expressive potential of the language they are learning. Drama is an effective way of helping students to activate that language and explore setting, character and story through cooperation, creativity and communication.

This 50-hour course will explore approaches to using literature in the language classroom and will introduce you to a wide range of drama games and activities. Sessions on the use of literature will focus on ways of promoting the habit of extensive reading and developing creative response strategies to encourage learners to become more active readers. Drama sessions are designed to boost confidence, creativity and spontaneity through role-play, drama games and improvisation. By the end of the course, you will have built up a repertoire of approaches to incorporating both literature and drama activities into your language teaching.

Who is the course suitable for?

This course is aimed at teachers of English and other ELT professionals who wish to:

- introduce more active and interactive learning methods

- develop approaches to using literature in the classroom
- update their own knowledge and skills in working with drama

Participants should have a minimum language level corresponding to B1/B2 on the Common European Framework.

What will the course include?

As a course participant, you will receive a pre-course questionnaire, which should be returned prior to the course. This is to ensure that the areas of most relevance to you are integrated into the course content. Throughout the course you will be invited to reflect on your own professional context and experience.

In addition to developing your language skills, the course will include content drawn from some or all of the following areas depending on contextual needs and priorities:

- Motivating, sustaining and monitoring extensive reading
- Creative approaches to reader response
- Encouraging less motivated learners
- Developing vocabulary and improving literacy
- The use of drama across the curriculum
- Drama as a means of exploring stories
- Describing and developing characters
- Contrasts between dramatic dialogue and natural spoken discourse
- Exploring and expressing emotion through language and action

All NILE courses involve a significant element of English language improvement and/or development of language awareness.

How long is the course?

The 50-hour course provision includes intensive tuition and guided self-study. Classes are held from Monday to Friday and take place as detailed in the course-specific timetable but within the hours 0915 – 1715.

What approach is used?

- Drama sessions are mainly interactive and practical.
- Courses are participant-centred and entail involvement in tasks and activities which boost confidence and provide memorable learning contexts.

Facilities and resources

NILE course participants have free access to an extensive ELT library, both physical in our Norwich venue, and online for you to access during and after the course. The NILE course venues have a modern suite of computers with a broadband Internet link and a wireless (Wi-Fi) environment throughout. In addition, each course has a

Moodle online learning environment where course materials and views of course participants can be shared digitally. This is kept active for at least six months beyond the course so you can keep in touch with your fellow course participants.



David Farmer is a specialist in drama who trains teachers as well as working with students in schools. After working as a primary school teacher he founded Tiebreak Theatre Company, which performed plays to young people across the UK and overseas for twenty-five years. He is the author of several books on drama, including *101 Drama Games and Activities* and *Learning Through Drama in the Primary Years*. He runs the website www.dramaresource.com.



Alan Pulverness is the author of a number of ELT textbooks, including *All in a Word: Literature in Language Teaching* (Bell 1988) and *Reading Matters: The guide to using graded readers* (Helbling 2007). He teaches a Master's module in Drama in ELT at the University of Alcalá de Henares, Spain, and has worked in Russia on reader development projects, including materials writing for the British Council's BritLit website. From 2002 to 2006 he co-chaired the British Council Oxford Conference on the Teaching of Literature and currently edits the Newsletter of the IATEFL Literature, Media and Cultural Studies special interest group.