

Love Assignment

TEACHING NOTES

This is a resource which has worked well, especially with female groups. In the free writing section, teachers may well discover that many learners will chose to write their own love stories, rather than one of the easier options – and the results may cause a lot of group hilarity!

I used the short story 'Highland Fling' by Maureen Brannigan, taken from a collection of short stories contained in 'Sexy Shorts for the Beach' edited by Victoria Kirwan-Taylor (Accent Press). The book is readily available, I found my copy in our local library, and it is also on Amazon ISBN-10 1905170241.

I am always on the look out for short stories that would appeal to my 16+ groups, male and female. Any suggestions from others would be gratefully received.

ANSWERS

Ben and Roxy

In a tent in the Highlands of Scotland.

The saying is 'Every cloud has a silver lining' which is an optimistic view, meaning that there is always a brighter side if you look for it. Cassie puts it the other way around, if she sees something good she assumes there must be a bad thing to go with it.

Symbols: xxx (kisses), heart, lips, the colour red, roses, Cupid, love knots, love birds / doves, Claddagh (Irish love/friendship symbol), Luckenbooth (Scottish love symbol).

For research into famous couples, www.famous-couple.com is a good site.

Love Assignment



"To love is to receive a glimpse of Heaven." Karen Sunde

Assignment

Read the short story 'Highland Fling'.

1. What are the names of the honeymooners?
2. Imagine, and then write a short description of each of them.
3. Where are they spending the first week of their married life?
4. At * Cassie misquotes a popular saying. What does she mean?
5. There are a number of cultural symbols for love, such as a heart. Name at least one more.
6. English is written in alphabetic form, where letters represent sounds; some other languages use a different form of writing. Find the Chinese character which means 'love', and insert it in your work. Remember to give the image a caption and say where you found it.

Free writing.

Choose one of the following:

1. Write a love story from your own knowledge or imagination. It could be set anywhere in the world and may have a happy or sad ending.
2. Research a famous couple, contemporary or historic, and write their story. Famous lovers include Lancelot and Guinevere, Elizabeth Taylor and Richard Burton, Superman and Lois Lane, Brad and Jen (or 'Brangelina'), Elton John and David Furnish.
3. Identify the main points in the story 'Highland Fling' and write a summary.

Love Assignment

EXTENSION WORK: Poetry

1. DISCUSS why poetry is often used to express love. Here is a humorous example

Bodywork by Paul Curtis

My wife caught me looking
At a lovely young woman today
A gorgeous young slip of a thing
And I did get an earful? I'll say

So I replied to her calm, as you like
"I can admire a shiny car on display
But it doesn't mean that I intend
To get in it and drive it away"

2. Find a love poem that you like and copy or download it. Remember to acknowledge the source. You can use the internet or the library.
3. Write a poem: List all the words you can think of to do with Love and which begin with L. Use these to write a short poem.
4. Make a word cloud of your Love words, using www.wordle.net