The Woman Behind Harry Potter

National Taichung Girls’ Senior High School

By Qi Fen, Zeng
Text type: chronological order
Level of difficulty: intermediate
Grammar focus: time adverbials
Structure of the teaching plan

I. Create a Background
   —to provide background information & build up schemata

II. Establish New Information
    —to learn more

III. Practice and Personalization
     —to reinforce and retain what is learned

IV. Application
    —to apply what is learned
I. Create a Background

A. To find out background information of this lesson by using scanning and skimming.
   1. Facts about “Harry Potter” series
   2. Facts about J. K. Rowling

B. To transform web-maps into short paragraphs.
The “Harry Potter” series of books are written by ______. There are ______ volumes in the series. The first book was published in _____. The books are very popular. There are over _____ million copies in print, and have been translated into ___ languages, sold in more than _____ countries.
2. *All about J. K. Rowling*

- How is her life now?
- What did she look like when little?
- First novel printed?
- Life in West Africa
- Life in Portugal
- Interest in childhood
- First marriage
- Profession?
**J. K. Rowling**

- **Profession?**
  - She is the author of the *Harry Potter* series.

- **What did she look like when little?**
  - She was shy, quite, freckly, short-sighted, not very good at sports.

- **Interest in childhood**
  - She had a strong interest in reading.

- **Life in Portugal**
  - She was teaching English in Portugal.

- **Life in West Africa**
  - She researched human rights abuses for Amnesty International.

- **First marriage**
  - She divorced her husband after she gave birth to her daughter, Jessica.

- **First novel printed?**
  - The first volume of *Harry Potter* was published in 1997.

- **How is her life now?**
  - She is a best-selling author and the richest woman in the world.
II. Establish New Information

A. More information about J. K. Rowling
B. Parallels between Rowing and Harry
A. More information about J. K. Rowling

Childhood

1. The family moved very often. → leading a life full of worry and insecurity

2. She was shy, quiet, freckly, near-sighted, not good at sports. → feeling a sense of loneliness and being unloved

3. She overcame her unhappy childhood by losing herself in books, which helped develop a great love of literature in her.
1. At age 26, she went to Portugal to teach English there.

2. Later on, she went to West Africa and did some research on human rights abuses for Amnesty International.

3. Her experiences abroad made her understand how it felt to be different from others.
Later on

1. She got *divorced*, and left Portugal.

2. She came back to *England* with no job. Before she found a *teaching* job, she spent her day writing novels at a *cafe* with her daughter Jessica.

3. Before her first novel was accepted for *publication*, it was *rejected* by several publishers.
1. There are over **200 million** of her books in print.

2. They are translated into **55** languages and are sold in more than **200** countries.

3. J.K. Rowling has become one of the **richest** women in the world.
A Glance at Rowling’s Life

**Childhood**
What happened?
How did it influence her/ her writing?

**Early Adulthood**
Where did she go?
What did she do?
How did it influence her/ her writing?

**Now**
What has she achieved?
How does she feel when reflecting the past?

**Later on**
What great changes did she experience?
How did she overcome all her lows?
## How Rowling’s life experience influence her & her writing

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Past experiences</th>
<th>Influence on her &amp; her writing</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Childhood</strong></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>• shy, quiet, freckly, not very popular</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>• move a lot</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>• an intense interest in reading</td>
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<tr>
<td>• start to write at 5 or 6</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Life abroad</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>• teach English in Portugal at 26</td>
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<tr>
<td>• research on human rights abuses for Amnesty International in W. Africa</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Moving back</strong></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>• divorced single mom</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>• jobless</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
B. Parallels between Rowling and Harry Potter

- an unhappy childhood, not popular with peers, feel unloved and insecure;
- knowing how it felt to be an outsider;
- overcoming many difficulties in life, achieving goal in life
III. Practice and Personalization

A. Q & A: Based on the above flow chart, answer the following questions orally.

1. How many copies of Rowling's books are in print now?
2. How many languages are her books translated into?
3. What kind of childhood did Rowling have? What happened when she was little?
4. What kind of girl was she then?
5. How did she overcome the difficulties she had in childhood?
6. When did she start writing? What was her first book called? What was it about?
7. What makes Rowling know about being an "outsider" so well? Did she have any experience of being an outsider?
8. What happened to Rowling's marriage? Does she have any children?
9. When she came back to Scotland from Portugal, what did she do for a living? Did she ever experience any financial difficulty?
10. When and where did she do most of her writing of the stories of Harry Potter?
11. Were her stories well accepted right from the beginning?
B. Oral practice: An interview of J. K. Rowling

Find a partner. One of you plays the role of the host (i.e., the interviewer), the other J. K. Rowling. Based on the questions above, try to conduct an interview of Rowling. All the questions must be asked in the interview, and Rowling’s answers must be based on facts. Do it orally the first time. Then, have your interview written down.
C. More practice
(1) Interview a classmate and fill in important information about him/her in the charts. Then make a report on it.
(2) All about me: fill in my own information and report on it.
(3) Exchange charts with classmates and make report on it.
The Woman behind Harry Potter

Introduction:
Who is J. K. Rowling?
What accomplishment has she made?
Has she always been a success?

Development:
What was she like when she was a little girl?
What was her greatest interest? What did she do then?
When she grew older, what special experiences did she have?
What difficulties did she experience in her early adulthood?
When did she start to write the stories about Harry Potter?
When did she start to experience success?

Conclusion:
How does Rowling regard the success of the Harry Potter series? What is the similarity between Harry and Rowling?
What can readers learn from Rowling?
B. All about Yo-Yo Ma (Book I, Lesson 11)

- Yo-Yo Ma
  - Family background
  - Where did he grow up?
  - When did he start playing music?
  - Honors won by Ma
  - Kinds of music Ma plays
  - Ma’s definition of music
Yo-Yo Ma

Family background

Father:  
Mother:  
Sister:

Cultural background

Chinese origin  
Born in France  
Grew up in USA

When did he start to learn music?

At what age did he first play the cello?  
Who found his music talent?  
How did his music impress people?

Honors

How many honors has he won?

What kinds of music does he play?

Classic, Western, Eastern, Jazz, Latin, Movie......

What does he hope to achieve through music?

To bridge the gap between different cultures
A Snapshot of Yo-Yo Ma

- Childhood
- Early Adulthood
- Now
- Later on
A brief account of Yo-Yo Ma (writing practice)

**Introduction**
What is Yo-Yo Ma famous as?
What kind of person is he?

**Development**
What is Ma’s family background?
Where did he grow up?
What was emphasized by Ma’s father?
What was he required to do when little?
When did Ma start to play the cello?
Did he have to practice a lot?
How many honors has he won?

**Conclusion**
How does Ma define music?
What are the crucial questions that Ma thinks we all need to ask? What does Ma want to do through music?