

## **Book review: The *resourceful* English teacher: A complete teaching companion**

**María del Rocío Domínguez Gaona**

Professor at the Language School, UABC

Tijuana. B.C.

E-Mail: rocio\_dominguez@uabc.mx

**Chandler J. and Stone M. (1999) *The resourceful English teacher: A complete teaching companion*. Great Britain: DELTA Publishing**

Good teachers are always looking for new activities for the class in order to refresh their lessons and keep students interested. Many teachers attend conferences to find new ideas for their language lessons. However, this is not easy for all of them because it might imply bus or airplane tickets, lodging fees, etc. what can turn into a very expensive search of new things for the classroom. Nonetheless, the book being reviewed this time offers the teachers, who can not afford these expensive trips, a very nice variety of activities to enrich their language lessons.

The authors say that this book can meet the new and the experienced teachers' needs because it provides the first ones with ideas to exploit materials better and make their class more dynamic and it also gives the experienced teachers a wide variety of tasks that can help them renew their lessons. The authors state very clearly that these activities do not pretend to be used as lesson plans but to be included in the ones they prepare. In addition, the authors claim that some of these activities can encourage

autonomy in the learner because they somehow present a model to follow that students can later on use in an independent way.

The layout of the book might not be very attractive because it does not have color but the content is worth. It contains very active and attractive activities to be used in the class, which do not require a lot of preparation or very sophisticated materials and technology. The activities are described in order to be developed in the class, the procedures are clearly expressed and examples of materials are given when necessary. It is intended to help teachers exploit the available resources better.

These activities were designed to suit different levels, the authors identify 6 levels:

|           |            |                  |              |                    |          |
|-----------|------------|------------------|--------------|--------------------|----------|
| Beginners | Elementary | Pre-intermediate | Intermediate | Upper-intermediate | Advanced |
|-----------|------------|------------------|--------------|--------------------|----------|

Some activities are recommended for two or three different levels depending on the difficulty.

The book is divided into 16 sections:

|            |                |              |              |                                      |           |                     |
|------------|----------------|--------------|--------------|--------------------------------------|-----------|---------------------|
| Newspapers | Articles       | TV and Video | Readers      | Icebreakers and welcoming activities | Dialogues | Warmers and Fillers |
|            |                |              |              |                                      | Songs     |                     |
| Circles    | Questionnaires | The Word Box | Dictionaries | The OHP                              | Computers | The radio           |

to develop activities using different materials and media.

**The intention of these activities are:**

- Reduce the fear to use these materials and media
- Promote cultural awareness
- Adventure teachers to use materials they select (not only the textbook)
- Exploit what the textbooks and realia offer.
- Choose an appropriate task for the appropriate level
- Learn techniques to use media more effectively.
- Promote independent learning. An example of this is the section "Readers" where students can be trained to choose and work on their own readers all by themselves.
- Make language lessons more dynamic and interesting
- Implement group and pair work and dynamics.
- Develop vocabulary, "The word box"

This is an excellent book for teachers who are worried about presenting new things to their students and preparing their lessons professionally. These teachers will find innovative ideas and specific techniques for them to develop in the use of technology and materials. The authors did an excellent job designing all these wonderful tasks