

# Teaching at a Non-Academic High School

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Audrey Chernichen

## The Magic Formula

(for entrance into ALT heaven)

Key Components:

Fantastic and lively classes +  
Well thought out goals +  
Solid relationship with your students and teachers =

**A Perfect Class Every time!!!!!!!!!!!!**

## Important Skills that will Help You

- Patience, Patience, Patience
- Flexibility
- A sense of humor
- The ability to be the most genki person in the room at all times!!!!!!!!!!!!

## Warm Up

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- Tell me my mistake
- Make me a new word!
- Daily Question
- Meishi game
- Cold(er) Cool(er) Warm(er) Hot(ter)
- Reading pictures

## Activities

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### Self-Introduction

10 Years ago... Now... In 10 years I will...

- An alternative way for you to do your self-introduction
- Students must draw three pictures about what they were doing 10 years ago, what they are doing now and what they hope to do in the future
- Present to the class
- Marked by you
- Put up in the classroom

### Music in the Classroom

World Music Quiz

- Students are given a map of the world
- First they must identify the countries and then they are asked to listen to a series of music clips and then try to guess what countries the music is from
- Encarta and your music teachers are great resources
- An excellent activity to keep as part of your "Emergency Pack"

## **Read and Run!**

- Think of something that involves a lot of steps
- Write each step on a piece of paper, using connecting words
- Put them up in the classroom in random order
- Divide students into pairs. One person is the writer and the other is the reader
- The reader must go to each paper, memorize the sentence and then tell the writer.
- After they have written all the sentences they must put them in order
- This is an excellent activity for helping the students learn how to put things in order
- It also helps students expand their memory capacity

## **Cooking**

### Rice Krispie Squares

#### **Ingredients**

- 3 tablespoons margarine or butter
- 1 package (about 40) regular marshmallows or 4 cups miniature marshmallows
- 6 cups Rice Krispies/Corn Flakes
- Dash of Vanilla

#### **Directions**

1. Melt the butter. Use low heat. When the butter is melted, add the marshmallows. Stir until they are completely melted. Turn off the heat.
2. Add the cereal. Stir.
3. Using a spatula with butter on it or waxed paper, press everything into a pan. Put the pan in the refrigerator for 20 minutes. When they are cool cut them into squares.

## ***Projects***

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### **Newspaper Fashion Show**

- Students are given newspaper and are asked to make clothing
- They must look up adjectives to describe their new and fabulous clothing
- Make sure that all the students understand the adjectives
- Have a fashion show!!!
- Would also be great as part of your school festival (get other teachers involved)

### **Scavenger Hunt**

- First students must learn prepositions
- Must also learn how to respond to "where was it?"
- Hide a number of articles in an unused room (the library works well)
- Divide the students into groups and give them a list of the things that you have hidden in the classroom.
- Have the students search for the articles. When they find something they must go to a teacher and explain where they found it

## **Writing letters to Santa**

- A free service provided by Canada Post
- Anyone who writes a letter will get a response
- Do not have to worry about return postage
- Students had to write a simple Self-introduction and they also had to ask Santa 5 questions

Santa Claus  
North Pole  
Canada  
HOH OHO

## **Flat Stanley**

- First students make “Flat Stanley” dolls and then write a journal about him
- The journal and “Flat Stanley” is sent to another country where it is finished and then returned
- You can make a real paper journal or do the whole thing through email

### Themes

- A day in the life of.....
- School life
- Cooking with Flat Stanley
- Festivals
- Flat Stanley the Rock star (students favorite music)
- Flat Stanley the Japanese teacher

[www.flatstanley.com](http://www.flatstanley.com)

## **English Passports**

- Designed to help students become more fluent by developing their ability to ask questions
- Students must ask one question to you or your JTE before class begins
- They can only ask the same question once a month
- Can also be used to host a reward system

## ***Evaluation and Assessment***

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- 2 min listening/dictation quizzes
- Spelling tests
- Journal writing
- Show and tell
- Worksheets
- Crossword puzzle
- Interview test

## ***Using the Textbook***

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### **Dialogue reading**

- Use a crazy voice
- Ask your JTE to play the part of the opposite sex
- Act it out, Over acting

### **Vocabulary review**

- Criss Cross

- Crossword puzzles

### **Reading Practice**

- Speed reading (aloud)
- Divide the passage into chunks and then have students read individually (one person reads a chunk and then the rest of the class repeats)

### **Resources**

#### Internet

www.onestopenglish.com  
www.eslcafe.com  
www.puzzlemaker.com/cw

## **Motivating Your Students Outside the Classroom**

1. *Eat Lunch with the students*
2. *Join an alternative club activity*
3. *Attend other subjects*
4. *Interaction in the hallways*

## **Discipline: Your JTE and the Homeroom Teacher**

- Don't try to address discipline problems during the lesson
- Don't over step the JTE
- Talk to your JTE after class if there was a discipline problem
- Don't just let them apologize profusely, suggest a solution
- Ask to speak to the homeroom teacher (with JTE)
- Ask that the Homeroom teacher and/or JTE speak to the students
- Speak to the students yourself

## **Setting Goals**

### Long Term Goals

- These goals are set for the term or the school year
- More important if you see the same students regularly
- Should be broad conceptual ideas

### Four important points

1. Where have they been?
2. Where are they now?
3. Where do you want them to go?
4. How are you going to help them get there?

### Short Term Goals

- Setting goals for a specific class or activity
- It is important to be as concrete as possible

### Four important things:

1. What base do the students already have?
2. What do you want them to accomplish?
3. What things will they need to get there?
4. Take small steps

# **Your Relationship With Your JTE**

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## **Creating and Maintaining a Positive Work Environment**

- How can you get to know your JTE
- When do you plan your lessons?
- How do you follow up after your lessons?
- Educating your JTE
- What can you do when you are frustrated?

## **The “What would you like to do?” Conundrum**

Reasons we think that JTE’s say this:

1. They are lazy (they want you to do all the work)
2. They are too busy to think about you
3. They do not want to teach with you

Reasons JTE’s might really use this phrase:

1. They lack experience teaching with an ALT
2. They do not know the role of an ALT in class
3. They are busy with other commitments
4. They are very nervous about teaching with you
5. They are not confident with their English.
6. They are not very keen on teaching with you

## **Ways to Effect Change**

If your JTE comes to you 5 min before class and says “what would you like to do?”

1. Carry an emergency pack
2. Ask for more information before your visit
3. Explain that you need more time to prepare
4. Ask to see the textbook
5. Arrange a meeting time
6. Set a zero hour

If your JTE translates everything that you say...

Ask them not to

If your JTE does not actively participate in the lesson...

Create activities that require both teachers to be involved

If your JTE uses the grammar translation method...

1. Invite this teacher to watch you in other team teaching lessons
2. Ask them why they use it
3. Talk to another teacher at that same school who can act as a liaison

Plan a team-teaching Conference

- Invite other ALT’s and JTE’s from around your area
- Ask the JTE’s and ALT’s to talk about their best/worst team teaching experience
- Ask the ALT’s to bring examples of activities that have worked well in their classes
- Have a discussion between ALT’s and JTE’s about what how to make team teaching successful
- Divide the ALT’s and JTE’s into groups and have them prepare a mock team teaching lesson which would then be demonstrated to the group