

Benefits of Using Short Stories in the EFL Context

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Abstract

The goal of this paper is to make EFL instructors familiar with the success that the use of literature in language instruction will bring for them. Since the purpose of EFL teaching must be to help students to communicate fluently in the target language, instructors should focus not only on linguistic benefits, but also on other benefits. Some teachers believe that in teaching EFL the focus must be on linguistic benefits, and so finally their students will be able to communicate in the target language. There are other teachers who have exploited literature in classes, and have realized that it adds a new dimension to the teaching of EFL. For instance, short stories help students to learn the four skills- listening, speaking, reading and writing more effectively because of the emotional benefit fixed in the stories. More over, instructors can teach literary, cultural, and higher order thinking aspects with the aid of short stories.

To put it into a nut shell, one can say that integrating short stories into the curriculum will help EFL students to become more professional not only in the four skills- listening, speaking, reading and writing-, which are necessary for the survival in the target language, but also in other aspects such as literary, cultural, and higher order thinking.