

Fantastic Inventions

A 45 min. lesson for mixed ability or wide ability classes year 7, extending and developing David Crabtree’s ideas on teacher support. At the end of this lesson we expect the learners to be able to make a presentation in English of their ideas of a fantastic invention.

Source: Notting Hill Gate 3B (2008), pp. 72f.

1 Generating ideas

- Whole class: Everyone explores the theme of “things I have to do which make my life difficult” by open-ended, teacher-supported brainstorming. The teacher gives pictures and *chunks* to stimulate responses. Useful materials: Overhead transparencies, post-it notes, whiteboard, flip chart.
- Partner work: Refine and edit ideas from the brain storm and record them on paper in single words or picture form.

2 Sorting suggested answers

- The whole class comes to a consensus focusing on the direction of ideas that become apparent as solutions to their everyday problems. Ideas are made public. Aim to define up to six themes or inventions.
Possibilities: Face / foot washing machine, time machine, fly-me-to-the-moon machine ...

3 Task setting

Groups choose one of these options and each act is introduced by a presenter.

- Dramatic presentation of your machine – demonstrate how it works.
- Dramatic presentation of the *bicycle shower* or *eagle power* as described in these texts.
- Dramatic presentation of machine, e.g. *biscuit baker*, *X-Ray glasses*, *cleaning skates*.

4 Plenary

Teacher asks: “Which would be the most useful invention, and why?”

Follow-on (45 min.): A class project on paper: “Write short texts about your inventions and draw pictures. Make class posters.”

53. BAG AG “Responding to Diversity” – *Fantastic Inventions*

	<p>Link to existing knowledge. Be clear.</p>	<p>Text for “Bicycle shower”: A bicycle shower combines your morning shower with a bit of exercise. Pedal power is used to pump water into the shower. The more you pedal, the more powerful the shower!</p> <p>Text for “Eagle power”: One of the strangest flying machines was designed in the 19th century. The idea was to use the power of eagles. They were fixed to a metal cage that carried a man.</p>
<p>Plenary</p>	<p>Assess for Learning / feedback.</p>	<p>I like your ... machine. I really think I could use ... I wish I could have ... like yours because....</p>

Kathleen Unterspann & Franziska Flügler