

# Learning with the Irrawaddy 12

To accompany the July 2006 issue of Irrawaddy magazine

## Teacher's Notes

Here's the twelfth issue of 'Learning with the Irrawaddy', a monthly educational supplement to the Irrawaddy Magazine. It is designed for reading, English or social studies classes in Post-10 schools on the Burma border.

With each issue of Irrawaddy magazine, we select one article and design some learning activities for it. We recommend that you use these exercises with students who have **at** least an Intermediate level of English. You don't need to use all activities suggested here – choose those that are most appropriate for your students.

In this issue we have included:

- this teacher's guide
- some copies of Irrawaddy magazine
- a class set of photocopies of the article
- a class set of worksheets.

Selected article: *The mother who was overlooked: The true inspiration behind the political ideals and acumen of Aung San Suu Kyi*, pages 16-17

### Activities to do Before Reading

#### Activity 1

#### Predict the main point

- Write the name of the article, *The mother who was overlooked: The true inspiration behind the political ideals and acumen of Aung San Suu Kyi*, on the board. Students look up any words they don't understand in their dictionaries. Elicit students' explanations and/or translations of this title.
- Draw students' attention to the pictures in the article, but make sure they don't read it yet. Individually, or in pairs or groups, students decide what is the main point of this article. Write their ideas on the board.

#### Activity 2

#### What do you know?

#### What do you think you know?

#### What do you want to know?

Tell students they are going to read an article about Daw Aung San Suu Kyi's mother, Daw Khin Kyi. What do students know about her?

- *Things they know* are facts that they are quite sure about (e.g. Daw Khin Kyi was Aung San's wife).
- *Things they think they know* are things they are unsure of.
- *Things they want to know* are things they are interested in finding out.

In groups, pairs, or individually, students fill in the chart.

There are no right or wrong answers in this activity.

Daw Khin Kyi		
Things I know	Things I think I know	Things I want to know

### Activities to do During Reading

#### Activity 3

#### Check the main point

Give students 5 minutes to skim-read the article. Check through the main point suggestions from **Activity 1**. Students decide which suggestions are the main point.

**Answer:**

*Aung San Suu Kyi's mother, Daw Khin Kyi, was the most important political influence in her life.*

#### Activity 4

#### Match the vocabulary

- Students go through the article and underline the words they don't understand.
- Students match these words with their definitions.

- |               |   |
|---------------|---|
| 1. symbol     | a. to ask for advice  |
| 2. founding   | b. something or someone that competes with another            |
| 3. rival      | c. a person who attends a funeral                             |
| 4. mentor     | d. the people who will live after you are dead                |
| 5. inspire    | e. to attract and interest someone                            |
| 6. heritage   | f. one of the first organizers of something                   |
| 7. neglect    | g. a picture, person or thing that represents an idea         |
| 8. captivate  | h. the traditional beliefs and customs of a country or family |
| 9. integrity  | i. being honest, having high moral principles                 |
| 10. ailing    | j. to ignore, to not pay attention to                         |
| 11. consult   | k. an experienced person who helps a less experienced one     |
| 12. mourner   | l. being sick   |
| 13. posterity | m. to encourage someone to do something good                  |

**Answers:**

1. g 2. f 3. b 4. k 5. m 6. h 7. j 8. e 9. i 10. l 11. a 12. c 13. d

c) Students match these words with their definitions.

1. The football team were beaten by a \_\_\_\_\_ team from the next town.
2. If you \_\_\_\_\_ neglect your children, they will grow up unhappy.
3. Daw Khin Kyi was very truthful, she had a lot of \_\_\_\_\_ .
4. The older teacher was a \_\_\_\_\_ to the new staff.
5. Aung San Suu Kyi's parents \_\_\_\_\_ her to become a leader.
6. I like to \_\_\_\_\_ my parents when I want to make a decision.
7. There were a lot of \_\_\_\_\_ at Daw Khin Kyi's funeral.
8. The actor \_\_\_\_\_ the audience with his performance.
9. Aung San was a \_\_\_\_\_ of Burma's independence movement.
10. Aung San Suu Kyi returned to Burma when her mother was \_\_\_\_\_.
11. Please keep these photographs and documents for \_\_\_\_\_.
12. Aung San was a \_\_\_\_\_ member of the AFPFL.
13. Burma has a strong \_\_\_\_\_ of arts and culture.

**Answers:**

1. rival 2. neglect 3. integrity 4. mentor 5. inspired 6. consult  
7. mourners 8. captivated 9. symbol 10. ailing 11. posterity  
12. founding 13. heritage

### Activity 5

#### Idioms and phrasal verbs from context

Students choose the sentence or phrase that means the same as the underlined idiomatic phrase or phrasal verb from the article.

1. ... *although she rarely paraded her knowledge...* (paragraph 7)
  - a. appeared in the media
  - b. showed that she knew a lot
  - c. argued with other people
  - d. organised street festivals
2. ... *Suu Kyi must have learned a great deal about Burma's politics from...* (paragraph 7)
  - a. a lot
  - b. a little
  - c. accurate information
  - d. important things
3. ... *and a leading light in other social organizations.* (paragraph 9)
  - a. electrician
  - b. famous person [[too close to the answer?]]
  - c. spokesperson
  - d. important leader
4. *Dagon Tayar summed up Khin Kyi's character in one word...* (paragraph 15)
  - a. summarised
  - b. added
  - c. exaggerated
  - d. liked
5. ... *Suu Kyi consulted her before taking up politics...* (paragraph 17)
  - a. organising
  - b. writing about
  - c. participating in
  - d. speaking about

6. ...gathered to pay their last respects at Khin Kyi's funeral. (paragraph 17)
- say goodbye
  - cry
  - celebrate
  - express their anger
7. ...but also throw much light on the politics of post-colonial Burma. (paragraph 19)
- provide a different opinion about
  - use bigger writing about
  - provide more information about
  - tell lies about

Answers: 1. *b* 2. *a* 3. *d* 4. *a* 5. *c* 6. *a* 7. *c*

## Activity 6

### Comprehension

Students answer these questions. If the answer is not in the text, they write 'Doesn't say.'

- Why is it unlikely that Aung San Suu Kyi got her ideas from her father?
- Was Daw Khin Kyi very ambitious?
- Did Daw Khin Kyi tell her children about Aung San and his ideas?
- According to Tin Moe, who knew more about politics, Daw Khin Kyi or Aung San Suu Kyi?
- Has Burma had many female ambassadors?
- Did Daw Khin Kyi ever visit the US?
- Why did Khin Kyi decide to marry Aung San?
- What similar phrases have Aung San Suu Kyi and her father used?

Answers:

- Because he died when she was only two years old.*
- Doesn't say.*
- Yes. 'She made her children, from their earliest years, aware of their father's heritage.'*
- Daw Khin Kyi.*
- No, Daw Khin Kyi has been the only one.*
- Doesn't say.*
- Doesn't say.*
- Aung San used to say 'When Burma gets independence.' Aung San Suu Kyi says 'When Burma gets democracy.'*

## Activity 7

### Order the events

- a) Students put these events into chronological order (the order that they happen).

- Aung San Suu Kyi celebrates her 61<sup>st</sup> birthday.
- General Aung San is assassinated
- Aung San Suu Kyi publishes a biography of her father.
- Daw Khin Kyi becomes ambassador to India.
- Khin Kyi and Aung San get married.
- Aung San Suu Kyi gets involved in Burmese politics.
- Daw Khin Kyi dies.

**Answers:**

5, 2, 4, 3, 6, 7, 1

- b) Two other events happened in Daw Khin Kyi's life that are mentioned in the article. What are they? Students identify them and put them in order with the events from a).

**Answers:**

*Daw Khin Kyi becomes a member of parliament*

*Daw Khin Kyi becomes chairperson of the Women's Association of Burma*

These go between numbers 2 and 4 (after Aung San is assassinated, before she becomes ambassador to India).

## Activities to do After Reading

### Activity 8

#### Research and planning a biography

For this activity, students have to use their imaginations, and pretend that they are researchers, who can travel freely and have a large research budget.

- a) The writer of this article suggests that Aung San Suu Kyi should write a biography of her mother. If Aung San Suu Kyi does not have enough time to do this, she might ask you to do the job. Where could you get information about her? There are a few sources mentioned in the article. In groups, think of a list of sources, people and places you could go to find out more about Daw Khin Kyi.

**Suggestions:**

- *The three sources mentioned in the article: Tin Moe, Ma Than E and Dagon Taya*
  - *Other people who met her*
  - *India – the Burmese embassy might have records of her, also there may be people there who remember her*
  - *Libraries*
  - *Books about Aung San and Aung San Suu Kyi*
  - *Old magazine articles about Aung San and Aung San Suu Kyi*
  - *Burmese or Indian magazines might have articles about Daw Khin Kyi*
  - *Britain – there might be old colonial records about Daw Khin Kyi*
- b) The publishers have decided the book must be 12 chapters long. Students decide what chapters they would divide the book into. In their groups, they decide on a title for each chapter. You might like to brainstorm a few examples on the board, or give some of these examples:
- Chapter 1: Khin Kyi's parents*
  - Chapter 2: Her childhood*
  - Chapter 3: The student nurse*
  - Chapter 4: Busy days as a nurse*
  - Chapter 5: World War Two breaks out*
  - etc.*