

Learning with The Irrawaddy, No. 35

To accompany the **June 2009** issue of The Irrawaddy magazine.

Selected article: *Chronicle of a Cooked-up Crime*

TEACHER'S NOTES

Here is the 35th issue of 'Learning with The Irrawaddy', a monthly educational supplement to The Irrawaddy magazine. It is designed for reading/writing, English or social studies classes in Post-10 schools and adult education classes on the Burma border. With each issue of The Irrawaddy, we select one article and design some learning activities for it. The language level in this month's article is intermediate.

NOTE: YOU DO NOT HAVE TO DO ALL OF THE ACTIVITIES LISTED IN THIS MONTH'S ISSUE. YOU CAN CHOOSE WHICH ACTIVITIES ARE MOST APPROPRIATE DEPENDING ON HOW MUCH TIME YOU HAVE, AND THE LEVEL OF ABILITY OF YOUR LEARNERS.

In this issue we have included:

- ★ this teacher's guide
- ★ a copy of the student worksheet
- ★ A copy of The Irrawaddy magazine
- ★ a copy of the article from The Irrawaddy magazine

A. Activities before reading

Activity 1 Discussion

The title of the article is "Chronicle of a Cooked-up Crime." Look at the dictionary definitions of *chronicle* and *cooked-up*. Students decide what the title means, and rephrase this in their own words, either in English or their first language.

Possible Answer: *A story about a crime that someone invented.*

Activity 2 Cartoon

Individually or in pairs or groups, students decide what is happening in this cartoon, and what it represents.

Possible Answer: *A general dressed as a cook is frying Aung San Suu Kyi, John William Yettaw and some other people in a pan. This represents the government arranging these people, and what they do, for their own goals.*

Activity 3 What do you know?

Brainstorm the events surrounding Yettaw's swim and Suu Kyi's arrest. Write students' ideas on the board. If students already know a lot about the, try to get the class to write the events in the order that they happened (chronological order).

Activities during reading

Activity 4 Order the events

a. Students skim-read the article. Only allow them two minutes for this. They then decide what order these events happened.

Answers:

i, e, a, c, h, g, d, b, f

b. Students match the events with the dates or times they happened. One event did not have a date mentioned in the article.

Answers:

1. *g* 2. *e* 3. *d* 4. *c* 5. *f* 6. *b* 7. *i* 8. *h*

Activity 5 Match the vocabulary

a. Students go through the article and underline words they don't understand.

b. Students match the words and definitions.

Answers:

1. *e* 2. *d* 3. *a* 4. *c* 5. *h* 6. *j* 7. *i* 8. *b* 9. *f*

Activity 6 Gap-fill

Students use some of the words from Activity 3 to fill the gaps.

Answers:

a. *bizarre* b. *secure* c. *veteran* d. *claimed* e. *physician* f. *suspicious*
g. *set off* h. *Asthma* i. *modestly* j. *pension* k. *allegedly* l. *authorized*

Activity 7 True or False?

Students determine if the answer is true or false based on the article. Get a few students to explain how they know it's true or false.

Answers:

1. *False (paragraph 2 says her home has security men around the high fence)*
2. *True (paragraph 3 says he's a Vietnam veteran)*
3. *False (paragraph 4 says immigration officials issued him with a visa)*
4. *False (paragraph 5 says they arrested him a mile from her house)*
5. *True (paragraph 6 says unauthorized visitors are banned)*
6. *False (paragraph 6 says his visit was not authorized by Suu Kyi)*

Activity 8 Discussion

In groups, students discuss the meaning of *violating the conditions of her detention order*. What has Suu Kyi actually been charged with?

Possible Answer: *breaking the rules of her house arrest.*

(While under house arrest, she had to obey some rules. One was that she was not allowed unauthorized guests.)

Activity 9 Identify the main point

Students decide which option is the best main point. Ask them why the other options are not as good.

Answer: *a.*

(b and c are minor – supporting - points, but not the main one. d is implied, but not actually stated in the article. The write wants readers to conclude that d is the case after reading the article.

C. Activities after reading

Activity 10 What's happening?

These photographs were originally printed with the article. Individually or in pairs or groups, students identify the people and things in the pictures and write short descriptions. They should use the information in the article, and any other information they know about this case.

Possible Answers:

- a. Aung San Suu Kyi outside her house on University Avenue, Rangoon..*
- b. John William Yettaw's home-made flippers than he used to help him swim across the lake.*
- c. John William Yettaw.*
- d. Yangon International Airport.*
- e. Yettaw being interviewed by the authorities.*
- f. Suu Kyi being interviewed by the authorities and diplomats.*

Activity 11 Discussion

Some people, including the writer of the article, suspect that the authorities allowed Yettaw to get into Suu Kyi's compound so that they could arrest her for violating her detention order. What do students think? They discuss this in groups, and then each group presents their ideas to the class.