



## **GAVIN BIGGS**

### **Critical Thinking Skills: HOTS and LOTS in Primary Stories**

There are a number of frameworks for introducing critical thinking in class. The basic understanding and practise of critical thinking is easily understood through activities that fit into higher order and lower order thinking skills (HOTS and LOTS). Using Bloom's taxonomy for critical thinking, in this talk we will look at ways to create or extend activities based on using graded readers and stories in class, and how engagement with characters, character choices and values provides the ideal platform to begin the critical thinking process.

**Gavin Biggs** has been working in education for approximately 20 years, teaching and managing educational projects with government, academic, vocational and corporate partners. Gavin has a degree in Psychology from the University of Exeter and his professional interests include the effective use of stories in learning, and motivational psychology in the classroom. He was based in China for over ten years, focusing on building international education partnerships. Gavin is now an ELT author and freelance trainer.



## **LUKE PRODROMOU**

### **Grammar activities for young learners and teens**

Grammar is, with vocabulary and pronunciation, the bread, butter and jam of language learning. Grammar will always be with us as it is at the roots of language itself: how can we teach it clearly, meaningfully and creatively at low levels? This workshop raises awareness of how grammar makes meaning and how to teach it in an engaging way through a whole range of practical activities requiring minimal preparation.

**Luke Prodromou** graduated from Bristol University and has an MA in Shakespeare Studies (Birmingham University) a Diploma in Teaching English (Leeds University, with distinction) and a Ph.D (Nottingham University). He is the author of 20 or so coursebooks. He has worked for the British Council (Head of Teacher Training, Thessaloniki), the University of Thessaloniki (Shakespeare Course), the University of Edinburgh (Drama for TEFL), ESADE Barcelona (Drama and Mixed Ability Classes), Pilgrims, Canterbury and NILE, Norwich and City College Thessaloniki.

Luke's Phd: *English as a Lingua Franca: a corpus-based approach*, was published by Continuum (2010). He is also co-author, with Lindsay Clandfield, of the award-winning teachers' handbook: *Dealing with Difficulties*. Luke performs with the English Language Voice Theatre. He now does webinars, runs courses on English literature for teachers in Spain and is a co-editor of the Shakespeare Journal: *The Oxfordian*.

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## **MARIA CLEARY**

### **From Reading to Performing – Shakespeare in the language class**

Learning English without studying Shakespeare and his works means missing out on a rich vocabulary resource, cultural heritage and a lot of fun and excitement. Although students and teachers find Shakespeare intriguing, they are often intimidated by the apparent difficulty of the themes and language. In this webinar, we will show you how to engage with the Bard's language in your classrooms, focusing on three classics: *Romeo and Juliet*, *Hamlet* and *Macbeth* through text, activities and videos.

**Maria Cleary** is an author and editor of EFL courses, materials and readers. She is the Series Editor of *Helbling Shakespeare*, *Helbling Readers*, *Helbling Young Readers* and *The Thinking Train*. She has worked as a teacher and teacher trainer and continues to promote reading and storytelling courses in schools. She loves writing children's stories and is convinced that the key to successful language learning is in fostering the desire to communicate.