

2.5 Module: Happy Days
Unit: An Unfair Game

Creative Thinking Tools

Brainstorming*

R.A.F.T. strategy*

Activity Description

Telling the Truth about an Unfair Game in a Journal

Pupils read a myth “The Twelve Animals of the Years”¹ to find out how the animals were ordered in the Chinese zodiac cycle. With the help of the R.A.F.T. strategy, they take on the role of one animal in the myth to describe the race in their journal. They also brainstorm solutions to the race and include the suggestions in their journal.

* Please refer to Chapter 1 for the introduction to brainstorming, the R.A.F.T. strategy and other creative thinking tools.

Materials

- LT 2.5.1 – LT 2.5.6

Procedures

Telling the Truth about an Unfair Game in a Journal

1. Elicit pupils’ prior knowledge of story structure and myths (LT 2.5.1).



2. Ask pupils to predict the resulting positions of different animals in the running race and read the text to find out if their guesses are correct (LT 2.5.2).

3. Tell pupils that Buddha found the results of the race strange and would like to find out why. Ask them to take on the role of a particular animal and work with the same animals in a group to explain the unusual performance (LT 2.5.3).

a. Remind them to write the names or draw the animals on the running tracks for easy comparison of achievements in Part 1.

¹ McNeill, A. & Yu, V. (Consultants). (2005). The Twelve Animals of the Years. In McNeill, A & Yu, V. (Consultants). *Step Up 5A* (pages 46-47). Hong Kong: Educational Publishing House Ltd.

- b. After filling in their role cards in Part 2, pupils take turns to be interviewed by animals from other groups and to interview them. Ask pupils to use the note cards to record information they get about the race in Part 3.

 4. Guide pupils to make use of the R.A.F.T. strategy and the organiser (LT 2.5.4) to prepare for the writing of a journal entry (LT 2.5.5).

- a. Demonstrate how to describe the running race from Rabbit's perspective with the help of the sample organiser (LT 2.5.4).

- b. Pupils can refer to their note cards (LT 2.5.3) for the interesting details obtained from the interviewing activity.

 5. Guide pupils to solve the problems of the unfair race for the animals (LT 2.5.5). Encourage them to brainstorm creative solutions for Buddha.

 6. Have pupils write their journal entries individually (LT 2.5.6). Invite representatives from different animal groups to share their descriptions of the race.