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Teaching notes

UNIT 1

BRIDGET JONES' DIARY

by Helen Fielding (1996)

Background information

There is a film of *Bridget Jones's Diary*.

It is usual for British people living away from home to visit their families at Christmas. The traditional meal is turkey; people usually cook a large one for Christmas Day and then eat it cold or in curries or other dishes for several days after Christmas.

Teaching notes

Write the pre-reading *Discussion* questions on the board. Ask students to discuss them in small groups so that they can talk more freely.

Play the recording of the extract and ask students to listen for

- ▷ what Bridget's mother wants her to do
- ▷ how Bridget feels about it.

Give out the worksheet. Ask students to work in pairs. Ask them to read the extract again and check any words they need from the *Glossary* and then answer the *Reading comprehension* questions.

After completing the *Vocabulary* section, students could practise the adverbs in *Adverbs: ways of speaking* in groups. Ask them to write down three sentences each. They should use one of these adverbs and read their sentences in the manner of the adverb. The students in the group have to say what they think the adverb is.

Further discussion ideas: role-play

Put students in groups of three. Tell them to imagine that one of them is a teenager and the other two are their parents. The teenager wants to go to some clubs that the parents don't like. The teenager has to persuade his/her parents to give him/her the money. Role-play the discussion.

UNIT 2

PRIDE AND PREJUDICE

by Jane Austen (1813)

Background information

There is a BBC video of *Pride and Prejudice*.

At this time, events such as dances were important because potential husbands and wives could be met there. The word 'handsome' could be used for both men and women to mean 'good-looking'.

Teaching notes

Give out the worksheet and ask students to discuss the pre-reading *Discussion* questions in groups.

Play the recording and ask students to follow the words as they listen. This will help them to understand some of the more formal vocabulary. Give them a few minutes after listening to check the meaning of words in the *Glossary*.

Ask students to do the *Reading comprehension* exercise in pairs, but check the answers with the whole class. Ask students to explain how they found the answer by referring back to the text. This will help them to develop the reading skill and make them less dependent on dictionaries. Once all the answers have been checked, the students should write the meaning of the words in the spaces in the *Glossary*.

The *Vocabulary*. The *Collocations* exercise (and the one in Unit 9) shows students the way some words do or do not collocate (go together) with other words, e.g. we say 'totally different' but not 'highly different'. They should be encouraged to make a note of these whole phrases, and not individual words. When students have completed the *Phrasal verbs: pass* exercise, they could choose two phrasal verbs and write their own sentences using these verbs. They could read their sentences to their partner, who could tell them if the sentences are right or not.

Further discussion ideas: debate

Tell students that they are going to debate the following statement:

Unit 1

Socialising

Bridget Jones's Diary

by Helen Fielding (1996)

The author and the novel

Helen Fielding lives in London, and has worked for the BBC and various national newspapers.

Bridget Jones's Diary became an instant success when it was published in 1996 and was subsequently made into a highly-successful film in 2001. Helen Fielding based her hero, Mark Darcy, and some of the plot, on **Pride and Prejudice** by Jane Austen. Colin Firth, who played Mr Darcy in the BBC version of **Pride and Prejudice**, played Mark Darcy in this film.

About the extract

Bridget Jones is an unmarried woman in London who lives in a flat in London. Her mother is trying to persuade her to go to a party that is being organised by some of her mother's old friends.

Discussion

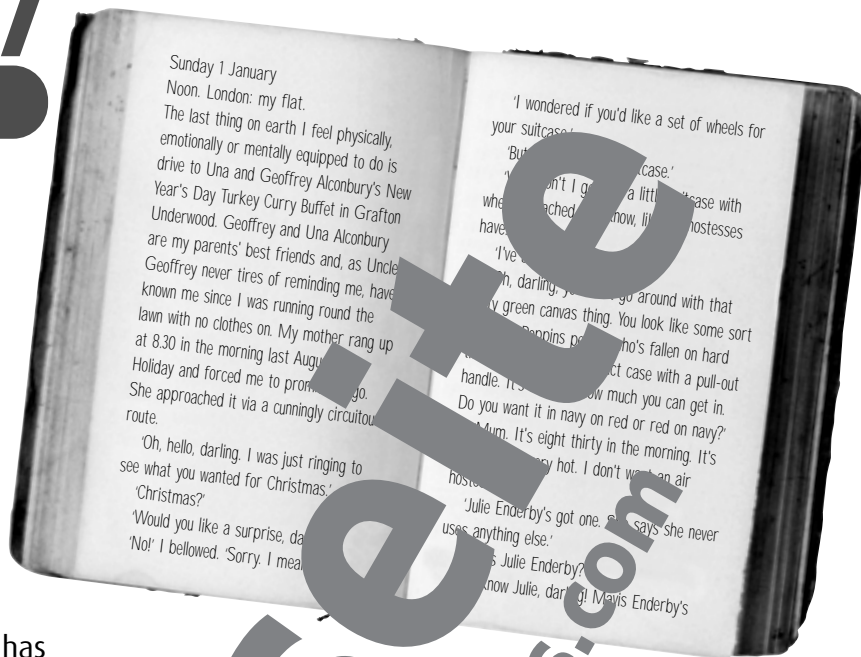
- ◆ Have you ever had to go to a social event to please your parents?
- ◆ How did you feel?
- ◆ What was the worst thing about it?
- ◆ Were there any good points?

Sunday 1 January

Noon. London: my flat. The last thing on earth I feel physically, emotionally or mentally equipped to do is drive to Una and Geoffrey Alconbury's New Year's Day Turkey Curry Buffet in Grafton Underwood.

5 Geoffrey and Una Alconbury are my parents' best friends and, as Uncle Geoffrey never tires of reminding me, have known me since I was running round the lawn with no clothes on. My mother rang up at 8.30 in the morning last August Bank Holiday and forced me to promise to go. She approached it via a cunningly circuitous route.

10 'Oh, hello, darling. I was just ringing to see what you wanted for Christmas.'



'Christmas?'

'Would you like a surprise, darling?'

'No!' I bellowed. 'Sorry. I mean...'

15 'I wondered if you'd like a set of wheels for your suitcase.'

'But I haven't got a suitcase.'

'Why don't I get you a little suitcase *with wheels attached*. You know, like the air hostesses have.'

'I've already got a bag.'

20 'Oh, darling, you can't go around with that terrible green canvas bag. You look like some sort of Mary Poppins person who's been on hard times. Just a little compact case with a pull-out handle. It's amazing how much you can get in. Do you want it in navy or would you prefer navy?'

25 'Mum. It's eight thirty in the morning. It's snowing. It's very hot. I don't want an air hostess bag.'

'Julie Enderby's got one. She says she never uses anything else.'

'Who's Julie Enderby?'

'You know *Julie*, darling! Mavis Enderby's daughter, Julie. The one that's got that super-doooper job at Armani Andersen...'

30 'Mum...'

'Always takes it on her trips...'

'I don't want a little bag with wheels on it.'

'I'll tell you what. Why don't you call the Bubbly and Ball club together and get you a proper new big suitcase and a set of wheels?'

35 Exhausted, I held the receiver away from my ear, puzzling about where the missionary luggage-Christmas zeal had stemmed from. When I put the phone back she was saying '...in actual fact, you can get them with a compartment with bottles for your bubble bath and things. The other thing I thought of was a shopping trolley.'

40 'Is there anything you'd like for Christmas?' I said desperately, blinking in the dazzling bank Holiday sunlight.

'No, Mum, she said. 'I've got everything I need. Now, darling,' she suddenly said, 'you will be coming to Geoffrey and Una's New Year's Day Turkey Curry. Get this year, won't you?'

45 'Actual... I... I panicked wildly. What could I pretend to be doing?'

'I'll have to work on New Year's Day.'

'That doesn't matter. You can drive up after work. Oh, did I mention? Malcolm and Elaine Darcy are coming and bringing Mark with them. Do you remember Mark, darling? He's one of those top-notch barristers.

50 Masses of money. Divorced. It doesn't start till eight.'

Oh God. Not another strangely dressed opera freak with bushy hair

burgeoning from a side-parting. 'Mum, I've told you. I don't need to be fixed up with...'

55 'Now come along, darling. Una and Geoffrey have been holding the New Year buffet since you were running round the lawn with no clothes on! Of course you're going to come. And you'll be able to use your new suitcase.'

553 words

Bridget Jones's Diary by Helen Fielding. This edition Picador 1996, pages 7-11

Glossary

Grafton Underwood (line 4): the name of the place where Una and Geoffrey Alconbury live

Bank Holiday (line 8): a national holiday when the banks and some shops are closed

bellowed (line 14): shouted loudly

tatty (line 20): an informal word meaning in bad condition

Mary Poppins (line 21): a fictional magic character who looks after children

super-doooper (line 29): an informal word meaning extremely good (now rather out-of-

missionary (line 35): used here to mean persuasive

zeal (line 36): eagerness to do something

hissed (line 37): spoke in a loud whisper

top-notch (line 38): an informal adjective meaning the highest quality

obsessed (line 51): someone who loves someone

burgeoning (line 52): growing quickly and beautifully

Reading comprehension

Read the extract again and decide if the following statements are correct. Put YES, NO or NOT GIVEN (if it is impossible to say).

- 1 Bridget's mother phones at Christmas to discuss the party.
- 2 Bridget's mother asks her immediately about the party.
- 3 Bridget's mother offers to buy her a suitcase suitable for air travel.
- 4 Bridget's mother works at Arthur Andersen.
- 5 Julie Enderby probably has to travel as part of her job.
- 6 If Bridget wants a bigger suitcase, some of her friends will pay for it between them.
- 7 Bridget's mother always uses a shopping trolley.
- 8 Bridget probably thinks that it's too soon to be discussing Christmas presents.
- 9 Bridget's mother is hoping that Bridget will become friendly with Mark Darcy.
- 10 Mark Darcy is a rich married man.

Vocabulary

In line 49, Mark Darcy is described as a 'top-notch' lawyer.

Compound adjectives

Match the following words to make compound adjectives, and then put them into the correct sentences below. There is one you will not need to use.

- | | |
|------------------|-------------------|
| i last | a -class |
| ii absent | b -tong |
| iii far | c -m |
| iv mouth | d -dressed |
| v second | e -tetch |
| vi well | f -ute |

- 1 'Smart' means 'clever' in the ... - ... in Britain.
- 2 Sometimes a very intelligent professor forgets ordinary details and is rather ...
- 3 The new chef in the restaurant has created some very tasty meals which look really ...
- 4 I don't believe that ... employees in this company should be treated as ... citizens.
- 5 The boss couldn't believe Tom's excuse about his train having an accident again; it seemed much too ... to be true.

Vocabulary

Verbs: ways of speaking

moan mumble roar
shriek whisper

Bridget 'bellowed' in line 14 and her mother 'hissed' in line 43.

Put the following verbs describing ways of speaking into the correct sentence. You may need to change the tense of the verb to fit the sentence. There is one verb you will not need to use.

- 1 'Penalty' _____ the football crowd as their star player was brought down by a defender.
- 2 'Help me!' _____ Mary as she fell off the cliff on a narrow ledge.
- 3 'Not another grammar exercise!' _____ the student in Mr Johnson's class.
- 4 'I wish Professor Martin wouldn't _____ when he lectures, I can never make out what he's trying to say.'

Vocabulary

Adverbs: ways of speaking

aggressively arrogantly
desperately modestly
persuasively

'No, _____ airily. (line 42)

The adverb 'airily' shows that Bridget's mother spoke in a way that was neither serious nor concerned. Match the adverbs in the box to the correct statements below. There is one adverb you will not need to use.

- 1 'Why don't you come - you'll really enjoy it. I know you will - come on, give it a try.' _____
- 2 'I just know that I'm better than anyone else - they don't stand a chance.' _____
- 3 'Do that again and I'll punch you in the teeth!' _____
- 4 'I really have to pass my mind to you this time - if I don't, I just don't know what I'll do.' _____

Discussion

- ▷ Is it easy for teenagers to get on well with their parents, or is there a 'generation gap'?
- ▷ Do you feel that your parents are still trying to influence your decisions?

Writing

Imagine you are Bridget and you are writing a letter to a friend telling him or her about the phone call with your mother and explaining the problem about going to the party. Ask for advice, and then invite your friend to visit you for a weekend next month. Give details of your plans for the weekend. Write your letter in 200-250 words.