

Blue Bird

Language level: Upper-intermediate (B2.1)- Advanced (B2.2)

Learner type: Mature teens; adults

Time: 60 minutes

Activity: Watching a short film; creating a verse of a poem; listening to a poem

Topic: Poetry;

Language: Poetic expressions; vocabulary related to drudgery of everyday life

Materials: Short film; video; Wordle and poem

Link to lesson: [Blue Bird](#)



Step 4

Put your students into small groups and tell them that you would like them to try to write a verse of the poem using some of the words in the Wordle. Give them the first line of the poem:

there's a bluebird in my heart that
wants to get out

Ask them to continue the first verse. Give them 5 minutes to write the first verse. After 5 minutes ask a spokesperson from each group to read out their verse.

Step 5

Tell your students they are going to listen to the poet reading his poem. Play the video but do not show the images. They should try to understand the poem. After listening to the poem put students into pairs and ask them to discuss the poem for 3 minutes. After 3 minutes get feedback from the whole class.

Link: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mmWZOsVtqR0>

Step 6

Now give the students the poem and ask them to read it. Get them to read the poem and listen to it at the same time. Then ask them what the poem is about.

The poem is about our compulsion to hide and stifle our most tender and vulnerable selves underneath tough, controlled exteriors.

Step 7

Now show the video with pictures of Charles Bukowski

From the poem and the pictures they see in the second video ask the students what type of person they think the poet is and what type of life he has led.

Homework

Give your students the name of the poet: Charles Bukowski. Ask them to find out as much information as they can about his life and work. In the following class ask for information about the poet.

Charles Bukowski (1920 -1994) was an American poet, novelist and short story writer. He had a very troubled childhood and became

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an alcoholic at an early age. He wrote about the life of poor Americans, alcohol, prostitutes and the drudgery of everyday life.