

The Language People

June 2007

Despite the way my computer victimizes me, I'll start with an appeal to those of you who are still receiving this in a paper envelope to take the time to let me have your email address so that I can use that instead. I don't believe you don't have one. Even I have one. Here are our local authors to support - Kaye Grayson, Mary Hill and Jenny Trevino from SB TAFE have brought out a little reader called Dinner time, with beautiful photographs (of an African mother & son) and minimal text, for people who need help with food hygiene as well as reading. Price will be about \$10. Communication across cultures: mutual understanding in a global world \$39.95 by two Monash authors. While this is an academic (Cambridge) book, it is not uninteresting. Chapter headings include "Politeness and face" and "Naming and addressing: expressing deference, respect and solidarity". It has some really subtle stuff in it.

Indigenous literacy project

On Wednesday 5 September, booksellers across the country, including me, are committing 5% or more of their sales to this very important cause, so if you'd been meaning to come in for a browse, that would be a great day to do it. Depending on the availability of my dog's godmother, I could probably even stay open after 5 if anyone told me they'd like me to. Why not mark it in your diary now, and remember there are some great coffee shops just down the street. Bad news for fans of the Oxford picture dictionary. OUP's price hikes for exactly the same products have to be seen to be believed, and many learners' favourite dictionaries are now going to cost them \$52.95 for the monolingual version, and \$55 for the bilingual ones. I know arithmetic isn't my strong point but that seems like about a 10% increase, which sure beats inflation. The unauthorized teacher's survival guide \$25.95 This is a very readable, sensible, American book, mainly for inexperienced teachers but with excellent advice and attitudes for all of us.

How to teach English by Jeremy Harmer New edition with DVD \$64.95 New in this edition are the Task File of photocopiable training tasks, a chapter on testing, and on the DVD, clips from actual classes showing good teaching practice.

I've told you before about the book I sell people who come into the shop on Saturday morning because on Monday they're going to China to teach English with no qualifications or experience. It's called 700 classroom activities \$36.95. Now there's a Primary

equivalent : 500 Activities for the primary classroom \$42.95. It's not just for the unqualified and inexperienced. It's an inspirational book for any ESL teacher, with lots of great ideas (500, actually), many of which I've never seen in other books. Well worth the money.

Chambers desktop guides: perfect punctuation \$18.95 A small book of which I thoroughly approve, modern, brief, authoritative and accurate.

Chambers dictionary of eponyms \$24.95 You know what they are don't you, but did you know that Macadam after whom the nuts were named never tasted one, or that King Gargantua once ate six pilgrims in a salad, or that M. Leotard died of smallpox? No, I thought not.

Who's whose? A no-nonsense guide to easily confused words \$23.95 Find out how to use *mucus* and *mucous* correctly, and whether to *underlie* or *underlay*.

5 steps to a 5 \$29.95 This relates to an American exam in English language but it deals with universal problem areas - strategies for answering multiple choice questions with explanations of answers, developing an opening paragraph, critical reading, differences between argument and persuasion and lots of other useful stuff for senior or tertiary levels.

Science literacy \$34.95 From NSW AMES, but growing out of the Disadvantaged Schools Program. Definitely not a classroom text, as I thought when I foolishly ordered three copies. It is an analysis of the main features of scientific English. It would inform those working in science, and also extremely conscientious secondary and tertiary science teachers who need to explicitly teach the language of science. In the Oxford Resource Books for Teachers series, Teenagers \$55 Includes advice on teenagers' characteristics as learners, classroom management tips and over 70 great classroom activities. Very few of them are for beginner level, but there are a few. All other levels are well-covered.

EAP now! Preliminary SB \$52.95 TB \$79.95 Class CDs \$79.95 An intermediate level book for the transition from general English to academic, or for those preparing for vocational courses. Each unit has a theme, and all macro-skills are practised in each unit, with emphasis on vocabulary and sentence structure. An Australian publication with very international content

A guide to learning independently \$42.95 Sensibly and sympathetically written by staff at Murdoch University to help students cope with the culture and study demands of uni. Accessible and not without humour.

Common mistakes at IELTS Advanced - and how to avoid them \$15.95 These useful little books really attend to the fine points.

Barron's Students' 1st choice TOEIC Test \$55 for fat book + 2 audio CDs

Professional English in use - Medicine \$46.40 A very good clear book, well illustrated. 60 wide-ranging units, with a helpful emphasis on doctor-patient talk.

Oxford English for careers: Nursing 1 \$44.95 CD \$32.95. *Excellent!*

English for international tourism is now available in three levels - Pre-int \$36.95, Int \$35.95 and Upper-int \$50.95. This gives them scope to cover a wide range of tourism related topics and skills, including relating to real industry websites.

I've mentioned this pronunciation software before, but they've brought out an upgraded version which has much more connected speech on it, the lack of which was my main objection to the earlier version. I found the man saying "pronunciation" on the demo *very* off-putting, but it has all the bells and whistles and you may like to recommend it to your learners. Have a look for yourself on www.eyespeakenglish.com

Here's a great little book for \$2.95 - Yes!

Mathematics for living - community Mathematics

Useful for big kids or adults, it uses topics like the light towers on the Sydney Cricket Ground, how much you save through a group booking to a show, graphs of daily pollution measures, etc. It's not basic numeracy, but it's Maths for a reason.

People in schools might know these next 4 books as they are from Curriculum Corp, but they deserve to be more widely known. They all have photocopyable worksheets:

Attention!: developing listening & speaking skills

\$36.70 Genre-based with lots of fun activities.

Life coach: survival skills for upper primary students

\$34.65 It has been written for "students who appear to lack support in the wider community and demonstrate poor decision-making skills". I would hide the tell-tale words in the sub-title and use it even with secondary kids who are at risk. Some of the activities are designed to be used one-to-one with an aide or volunteer. Very sensible stuff which those of us who've always coped may not realize ever needs spelling out.

Life skills reading & activity book Vols 1 & 2 each \$36.70 For school leavers and youngsters moving out of home or without much adult support. As above, excellent content, and all local stuff.

Teach terrific grammar Only \$29.95, and it's full of worksheets you can photocopy, and the activities are engaging. Many of them are in puzzle form so that if you choose the right answers the letters representing your answers spell out a word or phrase. Traditional grammar but it's more practical than theoretical. American, calls a full stop a period.

Three mainstream English books by Peter Clutterbuck

All about English Lower, middle and upper primary, each \$30.95. Very sound, useful, lots of activities.

Heroes and villains: easy to read true stories \$31.45 Photocopiable, from Curriculum Corp. Short, interesting passages with a variety of activities.

My first 350 words (Macquarie) \$14.95 Clear and colourful. Each word has a picture, and is used in a short sentence.

Black's rhyming and spelling dictionary \$21.95 This is phonics in disguise, and it makes it fun while being a useful reference book

Macquarie Australian slang dictionary: complete and unabridged (they're not wrong there!) \$19.95 This one's for you rather than your learners. It's interesting, often crude and often very funny. Did you know that 'speed bump' is 'a derisive term used by boaties for a skin diver'? And 'salad dodger' is 'an obese person'. But a lot of them I couldn't possibly repeat.

Some new Penguin readers:

Level 1 Muhammad Ali \$9.50

Level 3 Billy Elliot \$10.95

Level 4 Teacher man by Frank McCourt \$11.50

Level 5 Ripley's game \$11.95

Heart of darkness \$11.95

Sometimes people want a set of readers, so I have ten copies of each of these: The hitch-hiker (mystery), Clara (historical, love), and The singer, not the song (love). All elementary level, all \$11 each.

This one's a bit different. It's called Cooking for a crowd \$11.95, and it is a reader, but it's virtually a step-by-step manual for a young mum who's been out of the workforce who starts her own catering business. Very readable but covers everything. I've shelved it with the catering, rather than the readers.

Fire Reader \$12.95 from NSW AMES is one you really should get with the CD \$21.95 because it has great listening activities. It would suit pre-int & int levels, and is a nice mixture of stories, interviews and fire safety advice.

Latest topics from Issues in Society :

Peer pressure

Old growth forests

Native title and land rights

Teen health

Consumerism

Amphetamine use

\$19.95 each

Intermediate and advanced level reading, no activities, but excellent content and very topical.

Children's picture books

Ziba came on a boat \$29.95 Hardback, subtly told and beautifully illustrated by Robert Ingpen, this simple story of asylum seekers finishes while their hopes of freedom are intact. It doesn't actually say where they are from but they have Hazara eyes

First day \$14.95 An absolutely charming book about

a variety of different children (and one Mum!) starting school. Great for preparing kids, and also fun for after they've started.

Three Australian books by Frane Lessac, illustrated by Mark Greenwood: Our big island, Magic boomerang and Outback adventure. Each \$16.95, the texts are in verse and the illustrations are primitive-style with bold colours and lots of movement.

For older children

By the way, I hope those of you in schools forward these newsletters on to your Teacher Librarians? You know I only review charming and wholesome children's books. You'll find no dinosaurs, fairies or nasty sci fi here. But talking animals, yes.

Friendship according to Humphrey \$14.95 More fun and wisdom from this dear little hamster.

Yirra and her deadly dog, Demon \$14.95 Written by Anita Heiss and the students of La Perouse Public School, this is a book that deserves to be supported, and it's fun.

Some day, Angeline by Louis Sachar \$14.95.

Trusting the author, I was just going to dip into this one and confess that I hadn't read it, but it hooked me and I read it. It's about a little girl with freakish knowledge which doesn't endear her to everyone and her father struggles to cope. But she's such a nice little girl you're really glad when everything ends happily. A much grimmer book: Diego, run! \$15.95 by Deborah Ellis. Diego lives in a Bolivian prison where his parents are locked up while he is free to come and go. Deborah Ellis's acute social conscience doesn't stop her being a first-rate story teller.

Culture Corner

I mentioned these titles in the last newsletter:

The land, The people, The culture. Each title is \$19.95, they have beautiful photographs and fairly simple texts. I now have these countries: Australia, Afghanistan, Argentina, China, Egypt, El Salvador, Nigeria, Pakistan, Philippines, Vietnam. Lovely! Ramadan wall freize \$29.95 Six panels, about 1.5 metres wide (in total). And of course it goes from right to left, in Arabic and English

Songlines and stone axes: transport, trade and travel in Australia \$29.95 A well-researched and nicely-presented history of pre-European Australia, written for children but with good, detailed content.

The grand experiment \$22 In "civilization"! Two aboriginal boys, aged seven and ten, were taken from New Norcia mission in 1848 to be educated in Europe. They sailed to South Africa, Ireland, England, France. One of them died in a monastery in Naples, and the other was returned to New Norcia very sick. He refused to stay at the mission, "went bush" and died at the age of 17. Fascinating research by Anouk Ride has reconstructed this dreadful story from colonial days.

And from a bit later in our history (shockingly late, in fact), Cherbourg dorm girls \$20 Twelve women bravely tell their stories of childhood and growing up separated from their families in the "protection" of the girls' dormitory at Cherbourg. The stories are simply told by Jeannie Mok, and could be read by our learners of intermediate level upwards, if you're not ashamed to share this part of our history with them.

Prisoner of Tehran by Marina Nerat \$35 The author is a woman of courage and integrity who was imprisoned in Tehran in 1979 for inadvertently leading a student strike. In many ways a unique story, and very well told, but sadly typical of how many young lives were snuffed out or brutalized. Marina was prepared to die, but in the end realized she had a story that had to be told. Please read it.

Bilingual children's stuff

Lots of gorgeous English-Spanish picture story books: Farmer Duck \$27.95 A much nicer version of "Animal Farm"

Alfie's angels \$27.95 Dreams come true

The swirling hijab \$27.95 Nice to have a positive image of a hijab.

That's my Mum \$27.95 Affirmative action for multi-coloured families

The wheels on the bus \$25.95 Strong little hardback

Chameleon races \$21 Ditto

Also Chameleon swims

Linea y circulo \$21 (Spanish) Bold geometrical words and pictures

Milet flashwords English-Spanish \$21 for 60 double-sided cards.

Telling stories \$22.50 Has a story each from Sudan (*Eureka!*), Somalia and China. Told by parents of North Melbourne Primary School and illustrated by the children.

Grand-mere Nanan \$25.95 (French) Appears to have an African setting but it may be West Indian. I also have it in English only for \$16.95

The lucky grain of corn \$16.95 An African tale about blessings in disguise.

The *Small World* series: Smiling, Eating, Carrying, Celebrating in these languages: Arabic, Bengali, Chinese, Gujarati, Punjabi, Turkish, Urdu and Vietnamese. Charming.

Journey through Islamic art \$34.95 Somali Hardback, rich colours.

Children learning together \$29.95 A set of photographs of little kids (including some with disabilities) playing and working at school. Teacher's resource card in English, Spanish and French.

Arabic & English and Spanish & English audio stories on CD \$39.95 each, 6 or 7 stories on each CD.

And I've finally got something in Hmong! I'm sorry to tell you it's \$37.50, but who could resist a book with photographic illustrations by Professor Randy Snook?

It's called Many ideas open the way and it's a collection of Hmong proverbs in English and Hmong. Needless to say, it's beautiful and wise.

General Books

The Art of Happiness \$16.95 for a small hardback. It's hard to describe this book but I love it. It's sort of trick photography with body art blurring the line between reality and fantasy. It's great fun, eg, two middle aged women pretending to be a shower curtain in the men's changing room.

Dying was the best thing that ever happened to me \$22.95 I accidentally ordered 10 of these instead of just one to have a look at, but I'm so glad I did - it's fantastic! A very wise doctor who also happens to be a great story-teller shares some of the lessons he's learnt from his patients. Really, I know some of you reading this are very stressed. This book could change your life, and for all of us, it's a very touching book, entertaining and wise.

Quit: read this book and stop smoking \$9.95 The classic anti-smoking best-seller, small enough to hold in the hand instead of a cigarette. You could possibly even smoke it.

Dog Books, etc

I find I just can't resist them, so I may as well give up and have a section for them!

The secret life of dogs A small hardback for \$16 with lots of interesting facts about dogs and some great photographs.

The gospel according to dogs \$23 Remember The gospel according to Peanuts? This is by the same author, Robert L. Short, and he uses many different cartoons about dogs (not just Snoopy) to make points about Christianity and philosophy of life in general. It's a lot of fun and his theology is sound, too.

New gift lines

Gold mosaic oil burner \$19.95

Gold mosaic candle holder \$18.95

Essential oils ranging from \$9.95 to \$16.95 - Cedar wood, orange, patchouli, de-stress, total relaxation, and unwind. Yes, you get my drift; I'm very worried about the levels of stress I see in teachers. There's also a lovely CD pack of cello music for relaxation, that comes with a Japanese-style incense burner and the incense, for \$29.95.

Red tea oil \$14.95, and for \$12.95, Red tea quick break hand lotion which won't leave your hands greasy

There are also some lovely book packs of fragrant oils from Australian natives, \$29.95 for four little bottles of oil very nicely presented - Golden wattle, tea tree, sandalwood and lemon myrtle.

And in the store today we are burning - ylang ylang, which judging by the way I feel is not a stimulant (although that may have more to do with the

concussion I acquired fainting onto the bathroom floor while preparing for my colonoscopy).

Hot stone massage mini-kit \$10.95 Cute.

LOTE Corner

Reader's guide to intermediate Japanese \$72.95

Hardback. A scholarly book, not about written representations of conversational Japanese, but designed to improve understanding of texts written to be read. Although I don't know any Japanese beyond sushi, it looks accessible to me.

Handbook of Korean Vocabulary \$53.95, and you will definitely need to be able to read Korean script to use this one. It is a root dictionary with over 1500 vocabulary lists.

Samoan wordbook \$42.95 This one, on the other hand, is for beginners, and has a CD for pronunciation.

A dictionary of Maori words in New Zealand English \$31.95. A very interesting book, and a proper Oxford dictionary.

Conversational Tagalog: a functional-situational approach \$32.95 This book would combine well with Tagalog dictionary \$32.95 by the same author. It is Tagalog-English one-way only, but a sensitive, useful book.

Say it right in French \$16.95 A pronunciation book for those who don't know phonetics.

Practice makes perfect: Spanish vocabulary At \$19.95 this book is very good value for money as it's big and it links the vocab to grammar and conversations and readings Teresa says are interesting.

Would you like a little poem instead of a joke this time? It's called "**Rain!**"

Clean clear water rushing down gutters,
The creek chuckling that the ducks are back,
Wet shoes and socks.

Boopy shakes off the excess in the dining room
Then rolls on the lounge carpet to dry.

I thank God in more sedate ways.

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