

NOTES FOR TEACHERS

English Teaching Forum supports the teaching of English around the world through the exchange of innovative, practical ideas. Below is a description of each section of the journal, along with suggestions about how to use it.

ARTICLES provide practical, innovative ideas for teaching English, based on current theory.

READER'S GUIDE corresponds to the articles in each issue and can guide your own understanding as well as discussions with colleagues.

TEACHING TECHNIQUES give English teachers the opportunity to share successful classroom practices.

TRY THIS gives step-by-step instructions for carrying out language-learning activities in your classroom.

THE LIGHTER SIDE features an English language-based puzzle that can be photocopied and given to students to solve individually or collaboratively.

You can use the same pre-, during-, and post-reading approach to reading *Forum* articles that you might recommend to students. Before reading, consider the title and scan the text; then answer these questions:

- *What do I expect this article to be about?*
- *What do I already know about this topic?*
- *How might reading this article benefit me?*

As you read, keep these questions in mind:

- *What assumptions does the author make—about teaching, teachers, students, and learning?*
- *Are there key vocabulary words that I'm not familiar with or that the author is using in a way that is new to me? What do they seem to mean?*
- *What examples does the author use to illustrate*

practical content? Are the examples relevant to my teaching?

After reading, consider answering these questions on your own and discussing them with colleagues:

- *How is the author's context similar to and different from my own?*
- *What concept—technique, approach, or activity—does the author describe? What is its purpose?*
- *Would I be able to use the same concept in my teaching? If not, how could I adapt it?*

Search for related articles at **american.english.state.gov/forum**; the archive goes back to 2001. **Submission guidelines** are also posted on the website. Email manuscripts to **etforum@state.gov**.

ON THE COVER

The cover shows an image of *Tumbling Blocks*, a quilt that is part of the Smithsonian American Art Museum. "Tumbling blocks" is actually the name of a quilting pattern in which different-colored pieces of fabric are stitched together to create an attractive, three-dimensional visual effect. It is not known who created this particular quilt, which was made in about 1930; however, this type of pattern was often used by Amish women in the United States, who hand-made quilts to provide warmth in cold weather. Many of their quilts were so well-crafted and attractive that they became valued as artistic pieces, although that was not the intent of the women who made them.

CREDIT: Smithsonian American Art Museum. Transfer from the National Museum of Natural History, Department of Anthropology, Smithsonian Institution (https://www.si.edu/object/tumbling-blocks:saam_2021.67.1)