

# NOTES FOR TEACHERS

**E**nglish 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.

**MY CLASSROOM** focuses on classroom experiences and describes ways that the teaching environment shapes learning.

**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 *Scraps*, an image of a nineteenth-century scrap quilt from the National Museum of African American History and Culture. Scrap quilts have historically been used to represent communities and tell a story through symbolic messages and imaging. This quilt, created in Georgia by Elizabeth Salter Smith, uses nineteenth-century fabric featuring anchors and horses—symbols that often represent the strength and resilience of African American communities in the South. The combination of unique geometric shapes and novelty fabrics creates a rich retelling of the community behind this quilt.

CREDIT: Collection of Smithsonian National Museum of African American History and Culture ([https://www.si.edu/object/scrap-quilt-made-elizabeth-salter-smith:nmaahc\\_2013.162.7](https://www.si.edu/object/scrap-quilt-made-elizabeth-salter-smith:nmaahc_2013.162.7))