

Chess as Content

Dear teacher,  
Focusing solely on structure and form  
Brings no good but a storm  
That drowns learners' motivation  
Suffocates any form of inspiration  
Increases inhibition and frustration  
Impedes language learning progress  
Causes failure to perform and express  
Oneself in target language with success

Dear teacher,  
Think of first language acquisition  
Its environment and conditions  
Create similar situations and context  
To enable learners acquire at best  
Integrate language and content instruction  
Prompt interaction and meaning construction  
Develop interpersonal language competency  
Along with cognitive academic proficiency

Dear teacher,  
Apart from academic subjects as content  
Recreation is an area of interest  
Among learners' hobbies I made my quest  
As leisure activities incite them to do best  
Hey! The most optimal I can suggest  
Promote target language through chess  
As it is fun and free from stress  
So rich that vouches for learning progress

Dear teacher,  
Chess is an optimal tool  
For the effective learning goal  
Gives learners mastery and control  
To learn the language as a whole  
Through integration and experience  
Total Physical Response and graphics

Cooperative and task-based learning  
A journey from low to high order thinking

Dear teacher,  
Nothing to fear, just give it a go  
Here are some tips you may follow  
Through L1 teach them how  
Get your ducks in a row  
Then switch to L2 and start the show  
Enhance what they already saw  
Introduce what they didn't know  
And use interference when doing so

Chaouki from Tunisia