NOTES ABOUT PRESENTERS

Helen Finnerty has been teaching English for 10 years. She has been working at IH Buenos Aires since 1995, where she is currently Director of Studies. She has given numerous sessions, both in connection with IH and for other organisations in Uruguay. She has previously taught in Turkey, The Czech Republic, Brazil and London.

Tad Larner has been teaching English for 8 years. She has been working at IH Buenos Aires since 1996, where she is currently Education ADOS. She has given numerous sessions, both in connection with IH and for other organisations in Argentina. She has previously taught in France, Ukraine and Wales.
ABSTRACT

The Magic of a good story.

Harry Potter is the book that has taught a generation to read again. In this workshop, we will demonstrate how the best thing to hit EFL since Aardman Animations “Wallace and Gromit” can be used practically in the classroom for both linguistic and skills-based reasons. We will emphasise that it can be used at all levels and with adults and adolescents alike. We feel it is not necessary to grade materials in order to exploit them successfully.

(73 words)

Narrative

Courtesy of JK Rowling and Harry Potter, a whole generation of disaffected readers have been encouraged to desert the Internet and go back to books. Reflecting this real reason to read, we will explore the numerous ways that Harry Potter can be exploited in the classroom. We will demonstrate several beliefs that we hold to be true. It can be used for all levels, for all ages and without the grading of material. It can be used for language activities and skills-based activities, as well as numerous follow-up activities.

We will divide the activities in to the following categories and guide participants practically through a selection of them, providing examples of what real students have produced.
We will demonstrate how we have set up the above activities with different levels and with different results. We will provide participants with student feedback.

As this is a hands-on session and we will be referring to specific characters and events, it is advisable that participants have some prior knowledge of the text (at least in Spanish). We hope to demonstrate that all these activities can be transferred to any other similar text.

We will be keen to share participant’s experiences of similar projects and compare the results.