

Waiting

Julian Daniels

Teacher's Notes

['Waiting'](#) is a short poem by Julian Daniels and is accompanied by a film by Fiona Collins. It is suitable for intermediate level students from young teenagers upwards. It can be used to accompany revision or teaching of the present continuous form ('What is he doing?' 'What is he waiting for?' etc)

1. Before Listening and Watching

Students look at the six screen shots from the film and suggest what the person shown is waiting for. It doesn't matter how creative their answers are – the purpose of the exercise is to engender the sense that the character is waiting for something – anything. Do not give the answers, or confirm or deny what they suggest. Possible elicitation questions:

Picture 1 – where is he?

Picture 2 – How many chairs at the table?

Picture 3 – what is in his hand?

Picture 6 - who is this person (it is not the same character)

Finally the students have to guess what question the poet can possibly ask them that is true for all of them.

Write all the suggestions on the board. Do not suggest that any are 'right' or 'wrong'. Play the clip for students to check their suggestions.

While Listening and Watching

Suggested pre-teaching of vocabulary:

big break

opportunity for success

While the students are listening for the answers given by the poet, ask them to make a note of the background to the soundtrack at the beginning of the film.

2. After Listening and Watching

The purpose of this activity is to turn what they have heard and seen into personal experiences. The explanations on the student activity sheet are complete in themselves.

An additional activity might be to ask the students to make their own version of a waiting poem. Get them to follow the same format as the poem they have heard, which means they have to complete only that which they are waiting for (*omit the italics below*). They should try to imitate the rhythmic pattern (two short lines followed by one longer line)

Waiting, waiting, waiting

Always waiting

Waiting for *a bus*

Waiting for *friends*

Waiting for *my big break*

Waiting, waiting, waiting

Waiting for *the lights to change*

Waiting for *the computer to load*

Waiting for *the girlfriends headache to clear....again*

Waiting, waiting, waiting

And now you're waiting ... *waiting for this poem to end*

Waiting, waiting, waiting