

CONVERSATION

At the End of the Rainbow

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Levels	<i>All</i>
Aims	<i>Develop fluency</i> <i>Enhance interaction among students</i>
Class Time	<i>30 minutes</i>
Preparation Time	<i>None</i>
Resources	<i>A picture of a rainbow or markers in the seven colors of the rainbow</i>

An old Irish tale tells that a pot of gold can be found at the end of a rainbow. However, there are also other stories and symbols connected to rainbows. For example, some people say that rainbows represent the future. What would you like to find at the end of that rainbow? This activity guides students in discussion about some personal goals. Students interact with their peers and share their plans or projects for the future. This is a great activity to wrap up a unit or a course.

PROCEDURE

1. Ask the class, “What are the seven colors of the rainbow?” and write them on the board as the students say them: red, orange, yellow, green, blue, indigo, and violet. Then show a picture of a rainbow or draw one using colorful markers.
2. Ask the class, “Do you know what object is at the end of the rainbow?” Tell the Irish legend about the pot of gold found at the end of the rainbow.
3. Explain that a rainbow can also represent the future and then encourage the class to think about their hopes and dreams for the future. Write on the board, “What goals would you like to reach? What would you like to find at the end of the rainbow?” Give an example, such as learning English or receiving an award. Seeing it at the rainbow’s end means the goal was achieved.
4. Students copy the questions written on the board. For a few minutes, students discuss in pairs what their goals are and what they would like to find at the end of the rainbow.
5. Lead a class discussion in which students share their goals.
6. After the discussion, young learners draw what they would like to find at the end of the rainbow. Adults can listen to the song “At the End of the Rainbow” and sing along.

CAVEATS AND OPTIONS

1. Because the activity might be very personal or emotional, some students might prefer not to share their real plans or projects. In that case, tell them to make up a goal. Another option is to tell them to choose a popular character from a book or movie and make up a goal for that character. If they do that, they should tell their partner the name of the character.
2. To extend the activity, students could discuss how they're going to reach their goals, or they can create a plan of action.

REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

To read more about Irish myths: www.celtic-weddingrings.com/celtic-mythology/myth-of-the-leprechaun.aspx

For young learners, watch this video, "The Ancient Rock at the End of the Rainbow!": www.youtube.com/watch?v=wKUnq-KaLeE

For adults, watch this video with the lyrics to "At the End of the Rainbow," and sing along with Earl Grant: www.youtube.com/watch?v=NdkfjbSidzs