



# The Gwangju Communicator

Newsletter of the Gwangju-Jeonnam Chapter of Korea TESOL

June 2013

## Injecting Interest into Intensive Reading Activities

By Henry Gerlits

If TESOL topics were kids in high school, Extensive Reading would be one of the prettiest, most popular girls in your class. But let's not forget that her misunderstood, seemingly dry-as-toast older sister, Intensive Reading, also has a lot to offer. Let's face it, when our supervisors ask us to teach a class on reading, more often than not, they mean reading of the intensive variety. So, what can we do to keep students interested, motivated, and connected to the material? In this presentation, I'd like to share some of the activities that worked well in my course on Intensive Reading strategies that I was assigned to teach this past semester.

I'll talk about warm-ups to activate your students' background knowledge, and we'll discuss alternatives to traditional vocabulary translations and matching reviews. We'll discuss the ways paraphrasing can help integrate the other three skills into an intensive reading classroom. We'll get into my favorite aspect of reading (timed challenges!) and the many ways you can use the stopwatch to push your students to read and achieve more efficiently in the intensive reading classroom. We'll also explore ways to adapt Tim Ferriss' speed reading techniques for English language learners. Focusing on line pacing and utilizing peripheral vision, we'll do a few exercises ourselves.

Finally, we'll talk about student attitude and awareness when approaching a text. We'll consider the importance of continually asking questions on the

text to maintain active reading habits, not only to aid in comprehension, but also in order to foster a healthy skepticism in young readers. Though the students in my classroom are adults, we'll discuss ways to adapt these activities to students of all ages.

Join me as we give intensive reading the credit she's due!

### THE PRESENTER

**Henry Gerlits** has worked for two years at Gwangju University, and has just recently taken a position training



public school English teachers at the Jeolla-namdo Educational Training Institute in Damyang. He has been teaching English since 2005, and has experience in Korea, Japan, and in his hometown of Boston. His interests include hiking, cooking, yoga, strategy gaming, and

traveling. Henry is presently Membership Coordinator for the Gwangju-Jeonnam Chapter of KOTESOL. He can be reached at [henry.gerlits@gmail.com](mailto:henry.gerlits@gmail.com)

*(Henry Gerlits is presenting on Intensive Reading activities at the June 8th Gwangju-Jeonnam KOTESOL Chapter meeting at Chosun University.)*

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# ■ Joining Korea TESOL

**Who May Join:** English teachers of any level or nationality are eligible to join KOTESOL. We welcome native and non-native speakers teaching at primary schools, secondary schools, language institutes, colleges and universities, and other organizations. University students may join as student members.

## What Memberships Types Are Available?

- **Regular 1-Year Membership** (40,000 won).
- **Lifetime Membership** (400,000 won). Student and International Membership options also available.

**How to Join:** Apply by using the online membership form at <http://www.koreatesol.org/>. On the front page, click on "Join KOTESOL" in the menu, and follow the directions.

Alternately, paper membership application and renewal forms are available at Chapter meetings for those who prefer making a hard-copy application with Chapter assistance.

## Membership payment may be made by:

- Bank transfer to **KOTESOL**: Korea Exchange Bank account number 630-006952-841
- Payment in cash to the Chapter Membership Officer at a Chapter Meeting

## Using Storybooks to Create an English-Friendly EFL Environment

By Eul Soon Lee

Authentic picture story books as teaching materials seem to provide a learning environment that might be meaningful to young learners. According to Jayne Cameron (2001), stories represent holistic approaches to language teaching and learning that place a high premium on children's involvement with rich, authentic uses of the foreign language.

Research findings (Sheu, 2009) suggest that the majority of primary school students considered that reading English picture story books helped with their language learning, motivated their reading and stimulated their imaginations.

This presentation will show why it is advantageous to use storybooks for teaching English in the elementary school setting and suggest effective pre-activities, while-activities, and post-activities for using with storybooks. The presenter will also share her teaching experiences using storybooks with elementary school students.

### THE PRESENTER

Eul Soon Lee has been teaching for thirteen years as an elementary school teacher. She is now working at



Dong-un Elementary School. She graduated from Gwangju National University of Education in 2001 and received her master's degree from GNUE in Elementary English Education. Now she is in the doctorate program at Chonnam National University. Her

main academic interest is in using storybooks in elementary English education.

(Ms. Lee is presenting on using storybook in the elementary school classroom on June 8th at the Gwangju-Jeonnang KOTESOL Chapter meeting at Chosun University.)

### Gwangju-Jeonnang Chapter at the KOTESOL National Conference

The Gwangju-Jeonnang Chapter was well represented at the KOTESOL National Conference, held at KNUE on May 25. Nico Lorenzutti presented *Teaching Communicatively Towards the NEAT and Other Productive Speaking Tests*, Ross Chambers presented *Making Our Classes More Communicative Through Effective Teacher Talk*, and Dr. David Shaffer gave two presentations: *The Changing Face of English in Korea* and *Developing Professionally: Reflecting on Our Practices*. David was also a member of the National Conference Committee.

Other Chapter members making the conference trip up to Cheongju were Cathy Peck, Scott Findlay, Seneca Ryan, Jasmin Silver, and Lindsay Herron. Look for Lindsay's reviews of the Conference and the Sunday Workshop in *TEC News*. In addition to Lindsay, Dr. Keith Folse's Sunday Workshop on activities for practicing vocabulary and grammar was attended by Julien McNulty, Ross Chambers, and David Shaffer.

### Gwangju-Jeonnang Reflective Practice Special Interest Group

The Gwangju-Jeonnang group of the KOTESOL Reflective Practice SIG (Special Interest Group) is now meeting monthly in Gwangju. The meetings are held on the second Saturday of the month at the Starbucks near the rear entrance to Chosun University. A typical RP-SIG meeting consists of four parts: (a) ice-breaker – an interactive warming up session to break the ice, (b) check-in – groups of three or four discuss personal reflective goals, (c) discussion – facilitator leads group discussion to promote reflective practice, and (d) check-out – reaffirmation of personal goals and direction.

It is hoped that members can take the ideas, thoughts, and experiences from the meetings and transfer them to their own contexts. For more information on the new Reflective Practice SIG, please refer to the RP-SIG events page <http://koreatesol.org/content/new-gwangju-meetings>. We hope you will participate.

## Gwangju-Jeonnam KOTESOL June Meeting

- Time: Saturday, June 8, 2013, 1:30 p.m.
- Place: Chosun University (Gwangju), Main Building (본관), Room 5210.

### ■ Schedule

- 1:30 pm:** Sign-in and Meet-and-Greet (Admission is free. Future membership is welcomed.)
- 2:00 pm:** PRESENTATION 1  
***Using Storybooks to Create a English-Friendly EFL Environment***  
 Eul Soon Lee (Dong-un Elementary School, Gwangju)
- 2:45 pm:** Refreshment Break
- 3:00 pm:** PRESENTATION 2  
***Injecting Interest into Intensive Reading Activities***  
 Henry Gerlits (Jeonnam Educational Training Institute)
- 4:00 pm: Swap-Shop Session**  
 Share your Teaching Ideas, Classroom Activities, and Language Games.  
 (Open to All Attendees. Handouts welcomed.)
- 4:30 pm:** Announcements / Drawing for Door Prizes / Closing

## Upcoming Chapter Events

### July 13. Chapter Meeting

- *More is Less: The Use of Brevity in L2 Writing*  
Warren Merkel (Chonnam Natl. University)
- *Young Learner Activities That'll Knock Their Socks Off*  
Jacob Boer (Gwangju EPIK, Elem. Ed. Program)

**August 10, 2013. Chapter Meeting**  
Presentations to be announced.

**August 24, 2013. Chapter Social Event**  
(Tentative)

## Upcoming KOTESOL Events

### June 15, 2013

**Christian Teachers SIG Symposium**  
*Doing Justice, Loving Kindness, Walking Humbly: Teaching English in accordance with Micah 6:8*  
 Handong University, Pohang, Gyeongbuk

### June 29, 2013

**KOTESOL National Council Meeting**  
 Woosong University, Daejeon

### September 14, 2013.

**Busan-Gyeongnam Chapter Mini-Conference**  
 Busan

### September 18, 2013.

**Daejeon-Chungcheong Chapter Cheonan Mini-Conference**  
 Cheonan, Chungnam

## Upcoming Korea ELT Events

### 2013 KATE International Conference

*Tailoring English Teaching for the Foreign Language Content*  
 July 5-6, 2013; HUFS, Seoul

### 2013 MEESO International Conference

*Localizing and Globalizing English Education: Its Challenges and Opportunities*  
 July 13, 2013; Sookmyung Women's Univ., Seoul

### 2013 KEES Annual Conference

*Teaching and Assessing English Speaking and Writing*  
 August 7, 2013; Hannam University, Daejeon

### 2013 PAAL International Conference

*Insights into Theory and Practice from Diverse Educational Perspectives*  
 August 19-20, 2013; Ajou University, Suwon