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## When Prayers are Answered

### Teacher's Notes

A complete lesson plan based on the short story "When prayers are answered."

**Theory:** Critical thinking theory (based on Bloom's Taxonomy – six steps)

**Time:** 1:30 - 2:00 hours

**Activity Type:** Individual, pairs and group work, discussion, critical thinking, speaking, reading, writing and listening

**Preparation:** Make one copy of the handouts for each student. You will also need a copy of the song "The one that got away" by Katy Perry

**Language:** Creative writing, metaphors and similes, descriptive usage, adjectives and the past tense

### Procedure

#### Introduction

First, introduce the topic of „Reincarnation“. To do this, let them guess the topic by playing a game of hangman. Write on the board:

R \_ \_ c \_ n t \_ n

Divide the class into two teams (A and B) and ask them to guess the missing letters.

After they get the answer, ask the students various questions based on the topic, e.g. Do you believe in reincarnation? Do you believe in another life? Do you think you have had a previous life? Why? This can lead into a class discussion

### Song

Prepare the song "The one that got away" by Katy Perry. Give out one copy of the gap-fill song worksheet to each student and ask them to fill in the missing words. Play the song two times and then ask the students to compare their answers and check for differences between the first and second attempt. After that, give the correct answers (Lyrics are below).

### Reading

Give each student a copy of the reading text. The students read the text together as a class and then answer the true or false and comprehension questions. When they have finished, ask them to check their answers with a classmate. Give the correct answers after they have finished checking.

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### Teacher's Notes Continued

#### Complete the Story

Have the students write the ending of the story in their own words. Give them about 20 minutes or so depending on the level of your students. Tell the students to exchange their endings and compare their ideas. Give out the next worksheet (Page 3), the students read the final part of the story and compare it with their ending.

#### Discussion

Put the students into small groups and ask them to have a discussion based on the questions. After the discussion, have a class feedback session. Go through the titles the students thought of and praise them if the titles were creative or poetic.

#### Homework

The students write a creative short story or narrative story about one of the characters in the story or they can continue the story after the couple has been reincarnated.

## Song - Answer Key

### "The One That Got Away"

Summer after high school when we first met

We made out in your Mustang to  
Radiohead  
And on my 18th Birthday  
We got matching tattoos

Used to steal your parents' liquor  
And climb to the roof  
Talk about our future  
Like we had a clue  
Never planned that one day  
I'd be losing you

In another life  
I would be your girl  
We'd keep all our promises  
Be us against the world

In another life  
I would make you stay  
So I don't have to say  
You were the one that got away  
The one that got away

I was June and you were my Johnny Cash  
Never one without the other we made a  
pact  
Sometimes when I miss you  
I put those records on (Whoa)

Someone said you had your tattoo  
removed  
Saw you downtown singing the Blues  
It's time to face the music  
I'm no longer your muse

But in another life  
I would be your girl  
We'd keep all our promises  
Be us against the world

In another life  
I would make you stay  
So I don't have to say  
You were the one that got away  
The one that got away  
The o-o-o-o-o-one [x3]  
The one that got away

*[Bridge:]*

All this money can't buy me a time  
machine (Nooooo)  
Can't replace you with a million rings  
(Nooooo)  
I should've told you what you meant to me  
(Whoa)  
'Cause now I pay the price

In another life  
I would be your girl  
We'd keep all our promises  
Be us against the world

In another life  
I would make you stay  
So I don't have to say  
You were the one that got away  
The one that got away  
The o-o-o-o-o-one [x3]

In another life  
I would make you stay  
So I don't have to say  
You were the one that got away  
The one that got away

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## The One That Got Away

By Katy Perry

S.....(1) after high school  
when we first met  
We made out in your Mustang to  
Radiohead  
And on my 18th Birthday  
We got matching t..... (2)

Used to steal your parents'  
l..... (3)  
And climb to the roof  
Talk about our future  
Like we had a c..... (4)  
Never p..... (5) that one day  
I'd be losing you

But in another life  
I would be your girl  
We'd keep all our promises  
Be us against the world

In another life  
I would make you stay  
So I don't have to say  
You were the one that got away  
The one that got away

I was June and you were my Johnny Cash  
Never one w..... (6) the other  
we made a pact  
Sometimes when I miss you  
I put those r..... (7) on (Whoa)

Someone said you had your tattoo  
r..... (8)  
Saw you downtown singing the  
B..... (9)  
It's time to face the music  
I'm no longer your m..... (10)

But in another life  
I would be your girl  
We'd keep all our promises  
Be us against the world  
  
In another life  
I would make you stay  
So I don't have to say  
You were the one that got away  
The one that got away  
The o-o-o-o-o-one [x3]

*[Bridge:]*

All this money can't buy me a time  
m..... (11) (Nooooo)  
Can't replace you with a  
m..... (12) rings (Nooooo)  
I should've told you what you  
m.....(13) to me (Whoa)  
'Cause now I pay the  
p..... (14)

Chorus



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## When Prayers are Answered

A Short Story by Daniel Bwe Doe Aye

One fine evening, as the sun was trying to hide itself behind the flaunting clouds, a couple was walking along the river bank. The girl's long black hair was dancing in the gentle wind. Holding the arm of her lover, her eyes glittered like a woman in the prime of her life. The boy held a bicycle with his right hand. His gentle look was that of a man truly in love. "Shall we go and say prayers at the River Bank Pagoda?"

"People say they always got their prayers answered there," the boy suggested. "Oh! Yeah, but it is two miles away and it is outside the town," she continued, "and it will be getting dark when we come back." He gave her a don't-worry-my-dear smile and insisted. "What are you afraid of? Don't you believe that I would protect you from anything?" She showed agreement by smiling which showed a big dimple on her left cheek.

The couple headed to the small white coloured pagoda, which stood tall on the cliff of the river bank. Its saintly figure was tranquil in the alluring evening. The sleepy sun was sinking towards the river. The birds were composing their goodbye melodies.

They both sat in front of the pagoda and looked up at it to say prayers as the stars were peering from the ceiling of the blue sky. The boy said, "Lord Buddha, may only death part us in this life. If we meet in another life, I shall be the one who takes care of her and the one who gives her the meaning of life." The girl prayed, "Oh Lord Buddha, as I believe in destiny, may I meet him in every life and I shall be the only one who wins his heart."

Holding each other's hands, leaving the pagoda, the whispers of love floated in the air under the milky moon as they stepped down the stairway. They went back to his bicycle and travelled back along the dark streets with the help of the moonlight. Singing a melody softly and leaning on her lovers' back, she looked up at the sky as they rode along. The moon was playing hide and seek with her as they passed a shady lane beside the cliff of the river bank.

Under the shadow of a big tree, the bicycle stopped. Five figures appeared from behind a tree. The boy saw the glaze of a steel surface in the moon light. He begged the men to just take his wallet and leave them alone. As she stepped back a few feet in fear, the five men saw her untouchable beauty under the silver moon. Like wolves had seen their dinner, the jungle rule was practiced. The silver moon spotlighted on a terrified little sheep, the wolves easily grabbed their prey and drew them back to a dark wood. Three of the men finished the boy off. Before his final heart beat was taken, he asked the men, "Why?" One of the men replied, "Well, don't ask me. This is your destiny. You believe that right? Say your prayers."

In a small pool of blood, he prayed, "May this destiny never come again if I have another life..." This prayer was set with his last breath. In the wood, the sheep was helpless. The wolves showed no mercy. She asked, "Why... why do you have to do this?" One replied, "Because you are a woman. First, we just came for money but the plan changed when we saw a moon goddess!" Another man added, "Don't blame us, because of you, we had to finish your boyfriend off." Feeling guilty for being a woman for the first time in her entire life, she knew the only way out. The cliff!

The sounds of the waves hitting the hard rocks were showing the escape. She jumped. Before her heart stopped by the touch of the rocks below, she said her prayer, "In every life, may I be rejoined with my true love."

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## When Prayers are Answered

### (I) True or False

1. The couple went to the pagoda because they believed their wishes would be fulfilled.
2. When the girl was afraid to go, the boy promised by saying, "Don't worry my dear."
3. After they had prayed, they played high and seek in the dark on the way back home.
4. The boy stopped the bicycle because he saw some strangers.
5. There were some wolves in the forest and they came and attacked the couple.
6. The moonlight polished the girl's skin colour and made her look gorgeous.
7. The boy begged and gave some money to the strangers.
8. The girl committed suicide by stabbing herself.

### (II) Answer the questions

1. How did the girl feel being a woman when she was with her boyfriend?

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2. Why did the boy suggest visiting the riverside pagoda?

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3. What is the meaning of jungle rule?

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4. What were the stranger's intentions first and why did they change their mind?

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5. If you were the girl or boy, would you have said the same prayer or something different? Why?

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6. How did they die?

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7. What did they both believe according to their different prayers?

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8. If you were in their situation, what kind of prayers would you say before you took your last breath?

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## When Prayers are Answered

### (III) Writing

Write the ending of the story in your own words. Try to create an exciting, creative or interesting ending. After that, exchange your story ending with your partner and compare them.

### IV) Reading

Now read the final part of the story and compare it with your own story. What are the differences or similarities?

### The Story continues...

Time moved on. Seasons changed and the years passed by. There was a house. A boy was playing, as his mother was busy putting up Christmas decorations. The mother looked outside the window and saw her new neighbours, a mother and daughter that had moved in three days ago. Thinking that this was the best time to greet them, she went and invited them to dinner.

She introduced her son, "This is my son Derrick, say hello to your new neighbours." He greeted them. The lady was called May. She commented that Derrick was a very cute kid and had lovely dark brown hair. She had a daughter too. May called to her daughter. "Amy, come here, you've got a new friend" A girl with long dark hair came up. Amy's mother happily accepted the dinner invitation. While their mothers were talking, Derrick said, "Let's play outside." Amy replied, "Oh, I am afraid of dogs, you know." Derrick gave her a don't-worry-my-dear look and said, "Come on! Don't be afraid, I'll protect you. They won't even bark at you. Ok?" Amy showed agreement by smiling this showed a big dimple on her left cheek. This is the beginning of the story about two people whose prayers were answered.

### (V) Discussion

Ask the following questions to each other and share your ideas.

1. Will they be happy in their new lives after they had their prayers answered?
2. Are you happy for them? Why? Why not?
3. What is your prediction for Amy and Derrick's future?
4. Do you believe in reincarnation? Why? Why not?
5. Give this short story a title.

