

## Activity Type

Reading, writing, listening and speaking activity, pair and group work

## Language Focus

Reincarnation

Critical thinking

## Aim

To learn about and discuss the topic of reincarnation.

## Preparation

Make one copy of the lesson for each student.

Also, prepare a copy of the song "The one that got away" by Katy Perry.

## Level

Pre-intermediate

## Time

90 minutes

## Introduction

This engaging critical thinking lesson helps to teach students about the topic of reincarnation.

## Procedure

Begin by playing a quick game of hangman with the word 'reincarnation'. When the students get the word, go through its meaning and discuss the students' thoughts on the topic.

Next, give each student a copy of the lesson.

The students begin by listening to a song based on reincarnation and completing a gap fill. When the students have listened to the song two times, they compare their answers with their classmates. The students then listen to the song one more time. Following that, elicit the answers and discuss the meaning of the song.

Answer key

- |            |            |             |             |
|------------|------------|-------------|-------------|
| 1. Summer  | 5. losing  | 9. removed  | 13. replace |
| 2. tattoos | 6. without | 10. blues   | 14. meant   |
| 3. steal   | 7. pact    | 11. muse    | 15. price   |
| 4. future  | 8. miss    | 12. machine |             |

Afterwards, read the story "When Prayers are Answered" together as a class. After each paragraph, review its contents and meaning, and deal with any problematic words that arise. Students then answer a set of true or false and reading comprehension questions based on the story. When the students have finished, go through the answers with the class.

Answer key

1. True 2. False 3. True 4. False 5. False

1. Because people said they got their prayers answered there.
2. Jungle rule means the law of nature.
3. The men were going to steal their money.
4. The boy was killed by three men and the girl committed suicide by jumping from a cliff.
5. They both believed in reincarnation.

Students then write a continuation and ending for the story in their own words. When the students have finished, they read the ending to a partner and compare their ideas.

After that, read the final part of the story together as a class. The students then discuss similarities and differences to their story.

Next, have the students answer the discussion questions and then talk about their answers in small groups. Finally, have a class feedback session and discuss the students' answers to the questions.

**"The One That Got Away" by Katy Perry**

(1) \_\_\_\_\_ after high school, when we first met  
We make-out in your Mustang to Radiohead  
And on my eighteenth birthday, we got matching (2) \_\_\_\_\_

Used to (3) \_\_\_\_\_ your parents' liquor and climb to the roof  
Talk about our (4) \_\_\_\_\_ like we had a clue  
Never planned that one day I'd be (5) \_\_\_\_\_ you

In another life, I would be your girl  
We 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 (6) \_\_\_\_\_ the other, we made a (7) \_\_\_\_\_  
Sometimes when I (8) \_\_\_\_\_ you, I put those records on, whoa

Someone said you had your tattoo (9) \_\_\_\_\_  
Saw you downtown, singing the (10) \_\_\_\_\_  
It's time to face the music, I'm no longer your (11) \_\_\_\_\_

In another life, I would be your girl  
We 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 one, the one, the one  
The one that got away

All this money can't buy me a time (12) \_\_\_\_\_, no  
Can't (13) \_\_\_\_\_ you with a million rings, no  
I should'a told you what you (14) \_\_\_\_\_ to me, whoa  
Cause now I pay the (15) \_\_\_\_\_

In another life, I would be your girl  
We 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 one (the one)  
The one (the one)  
The one (the one)

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

**"When Prayers are Answered" 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 glistened 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. "I'm not sure. It's two miles away and it will be getting dark when we come back," the girl said. He gave her a smile and insisted. "What are you afraid of? I'll protect you." She smiled in agreement.

The couple headed to the small white coloured pagoda, which stood tall on the cliff of the river bank. The pagoda looked tranquil as the sleepy sun was sinking towards the river and the birds were composing their goodbye melodies.

The couple sat in front of the pagoda and looked up at it to say prayers as the stars started peering from 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 be the only one who wins his heart."

Holding each other's hands, leaving the pagoda, the whispers of love floated in the air 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 men appeared from behind the tree. The boy saw the glaze of a steel surface in the moonlight. 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. 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 into 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 with his last breath, "May this destiny never come again in my next life..." 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 your beauty." 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 life, she knew the only way out. The cliff! The sounds of the water hitting the hard rocks were showing her escape. She ran up towards the cliff and jumped. Before her heart stopped by the touch of the rocks below, she said a prayer, "In every life, may I be rejoined with my true love."

**A. True or false?**

1. The girl was afraid to go to the pagoda because it would be dark soon.
2. The couple played hide and seek in the dark on the way back home.
3. The boy stopped the bicycle because he saw some men.
4. There were some wolves in the forest and they attacked the couple.
5. The boy gave some money to the strangers.

**B. Answer the questions.**

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

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2. What is the meaning of jungle rule?

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3. What were the men's first intentions?

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4. How did the couple die?

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5. What did the couple both believe in, according to their last prayers?

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6. If you were with your boyfriend or girlfriend at the pagoda, would you have said the same prayer or something different? Why?

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7. If you were in their situation, what would you pray for before you took your last breath?

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**C. Write a continuation and ending for the story in your own words. When you have finished, read the ending to a partner and compare your ideas.**

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**D. Now, read the final part of the story and compare it with your own. Discuss any similarities and differences with your partner.**

Time moved on. Seasons changed and years passed by. There was a house. A boy was playing outside on his bicycle, as his mother was busy cleaning the house. The mother looked out the window and saw her new neighbours, a mother and daughter. 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 the mother whose name was May. May commented that Derrick was a very cute kid. May called to her daughter. "Amy, come here, you've got a new friend." A girl with long black hair came up. While the two mothers were talking, Derrick said, "Amy, let's go and play down by the river." Amy replied, "Oh, I am afraid of dogs, you know." Derrick gave her a smile and said, "Don't be afraid, I'll protect you. They won't even bark at you. OK?" Amy smiled in agreement. Little did they know that their prayers had been answered.

**E. Answer the discussion questions and then talk about your answers in a small group.**

1. Do you think Derrick and Amy will be happy in their new lives?

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2. Are you happy for them? Why (not)?

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3. What is your prediction for Amy and Derrick's future?

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4. Do you believe in reincarnation? Why (not)?

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