



## CHRISTMAS PREPARATION ACTIVITY

By Valentina Tenedini



### INTRODUCTION:

The activity consists of having your students **translate and ‘discover’** a **Christmas tale**. *I usually like to do it in December - about a week before the holiday break*

### Preparation:

- Choose a Christmas tale that you think is appropriate to your students' age group and level of English;
- Copy the story, typing each paragraph double spaced and separating each paragraph from the next. *[The paragraphs, or bits of the story should be of similar length; you may want to simplify some words, or sentences, if the tale you like is too difficult for your class];*
- Photocopy your version and give each paragraph a number (1,2,3, etc.) that you will write on the back of the paper. Cut the story into pieces (about 1 paragraph per piece).

### IN CLASS

**Step 1:** give each student a piece of the story you have prepared, in random order.

**Step 2:** Ask the class to copy the bit each has got in his/her notebook and to translate it. *[During this phase, walk around the class and see if anyone needs your help. You may decide to bring a dictionary along which students can use.]*

**Step 3:** each student copies the definite version of their translation in his/her exercise-book, and the number which identifies the excerpt.

**Step 4:** when everybody is ready, start calling out the numbers, *(beginning with 1, obviously)* and the student who has got excerpt no. 1 reads his translation *[If you have the IWB or a projector, you could project the corresponding excerpt in English so that the class **hears** each paragraph in Italian but **reads** the original version].*



You go on calling all the numbers , one after the other, and as each of the students reads in turn their bit translated, a ‘surprise’ Christmas story is gradually disclosed to them all...

**POST READING ACTIVITIES:** [*allow a few moments for the story to sink in... then*]

You may wish to:

- Elicit the students’ comment on it,
- let them tell you if they’ve enjoyed the activity
- Give them a copy(or the book reference) of the story you have chosen, as you very personal Christmas wish.
- Invite them to draw inspiration from the tale to create their own Christmas card /powerpoint presentation on Christmas...etc.

*Oh, by the way - I like to use the story: The Christmas candle, by R. P. Evans the students do not generally usually know that, its length is just appropriate for the activity, it has that magic and mysterious touch which young people seem to appreciate and conveys a message of universal Love which complements the festivity we are about to celebrate.*

Seasons’ greetings, everyone!



*Valentina Tenedini*