Consciousness Raising examples (Paulo Quaglio)

For the ESL Student

Activity 1. You will identify some important characteristics of *fictional writing* (not a true story), the type of writing in *The Call of the Wild*. Among other things, the writer tells a story, says where and when things *take place* (= happen), describes people and places, and even expresses his/her opinions and feelings sometimes.

1. Look at the words highlighted in yellow. What part of speech are they (e.g., nouns, adjectives)?

2. What do all of these verbs have in common?

3. What do the verbs *jumped* (lines 11, 12, 18), *ran* (line 15), *bit* (line 17), *attacked* (line 18), *knocked* (line 19), *moved* (line 21), *bought* (lines 43, 46), and *threw* (line 51) have in common? Are they…

a) action verbs (like *play, give*) **b)** communication verbs (like *call, speak*) **c)** emotion verbs (like *love, hate*)

4. What do the words highlighted in blue have in common?

5. In *When* <u>*she*</u> *attacked him again,* <u>*he*</u> *knocked her backward, and* <u>*she*</u> *fell on the ground* (lines 18, 19), what does <u>she</u> refer to? What does <u>he</u> refer to? What do you need to do to find this information?

6. Now look at the words highlighted in green. What do they have in common?

7. In *Curly tried to attack the dog who had bitten her* (lines 16, 17), what happened first?
a) Curly tried to attack the dog **b)** The dog bit Curly

8. In *Buck had seen harnesses on horses, and now he was made to work like a horse*… (lines 33, 34), what happened first?
a) Buck saw harnesses on horses **b)** Buck was made to work like a horse

9. Read the following sentence again: *Curly tried to attack the dog who had bitten her*.

As we saw in question 7, two things happened here: 1) Curly <u>tried to attack</u> the dog AND 2) The dog <u>bit</u> her.

Imagine that YOU are telling this story ***now.*** Where would you put YOU, TRIED TO ATTACK THE DOG, and THE DOG BIT HER in the time line bellow?

More distant past time	*Past time*	***Present time***

10. Think about your answers to questions 7, 8, and 9 above and answer:
a) when do you think we use the "had + verb" (seen, gone, bitten, made) form?

b) Can you think of an example? TIP: First think about two actions that happened in the past; then decide which one happened first. Which action will be described using *past tense*? Which action will be described using '*past perfect'* (like *had seen*)?

For the teacher in training: I focused on grammar (past tense, past perfect, and 3rd person pronoun reference), and word choice (action verbs) above. I've included below a few examples of features related to *organizational patterns* followed by an overall conclusion of the features I have chosen to work on. This conclusion emphasizes **the link** between the exercise and the **text type**.

For the ESL student:

1. In fictional writing, somebody *narrates* a story. To *narrate* a story means to *tell* a story. The narrator of this story is:

a. a first-person narrator (uses 'I') **b.** a third-person narrator (uses 'he', 'she' – but not 'I')

2. What do the words in red (and underlined) have in common? [Then, Two minutes later, That night]

a. they tell us about *where* things happened, so we can have a 'picture' of the *setting* (= place where things happened)
b. they tell us about *when* things happened, so we understand the order in which the events happened

3. In line 40, we see something different from the way the story is written. We see the use of *quotation marks* (" ").

"Those three are very good dogs," François told Perrault. "That Buck pulls very well, and he's learning quickly."

When are quotation marks used?

a. when the narrator himself or herself is telling the story **b.** when the characters themselves are speaking

Conclusion: Are the statements about fictional writing below **True** or **False**? Circle the right answers.

1. In fictional writing, most verbs are in the present tense. **True** **False**

2. In fictional writing, we find many action verbs. **True** **False**

3. In fictional writing, it's important to keep repeating the names of the characters instead of using the pronouns 'he', 'she', and 'they.' **True** **False**

4. We can use the *had + verb* form (e.g., had seen, had worked) and the past tense form (e.g., was, went) to show what happened first when we write about two things that happened in the past. **True** **False**

5. Quotation marks (" ") are used when the narrator *himself* or *herself* is telling the story. **True** **False**

6. In fictional writing, we can show the order in which things happened by using "time words or phrases" like 'then,' 'after that', 'two minutes later', and 'that night.' **True** **False**

7. In "Call of the Wild", the narrator is a 'first-person narrator' ('I' narrator) **True** **False**