

'More Birthdays! We are not Amused!' Teaching Ideas

Learning Objective: To read for understanding.

Success Criteria:

- To read for comprehension and inference – find implicit and explicit meaning.
- To support responses with reference to the text where appropriate.
- To expand vocabulary through careful investigation of key terms and unusual word use.

This lesson pack includes all the elements for a differentiated reading comprehension for KS3 and 4. As in KS4 exams, the reading material is the same for all pupils. Where appropriate, the different levels of questions and vocabulary sheets can be given to students. Many of the extension tasks require further research or class discussion. If you do not wish to use these tasks as individual extension tasks, you may enjoy using them for class discussion points or starters for independent or group research and presentations.

Students might enjoy extra tasks such as creating a fact file around one of the Commonwealth countries or territories mentioned in the article. They might use the Commonwealth Fact File Sheet to record responses or create their own. Students will find a variety of interesting articles and stories associated with the Queen's birthday on the internet.

There are many particularly interesting articles and stories devoted to the more bizarre presents offered to the queen for birthdays and other celebrations. Students may also enjoy creating their own design for a gift for the Queen. They could be tasked with producing and possibly costing (cross-curricular) their design using the A Present Fit for a Queen Sheet and then presenting their work to the class. The class could act as a judging body, determining which presentation and design should go forward to be produced – gives an opportunity for persuasive spoken language activities.

Alternative tasks include: creative writing around the theme of attending the Queen's birthday or presenting the Queen with a present. Students could research what happened to some of the Queen's presents – the animals in particular have often been donated to London Zoo and lived there for many years. Groups could then produce their own informative text around their discoveries. Students could also look at the extensive rules around royal present giving and receiving. There are very strict protocols around what can and cannot be kept, what can be consumed and what must be kept for the nation.