

Session Guide: Two Exemplary Figures

Session Outline

Description

In this session, learners will be exposed to the work of two environmental activists: Wangari Maathai and Greta Thunberg. They will read some biographical articles about them, discuss these with their peers and write a piece of creative writing from their understanding and reflections of their reading.

Session Objectives

The objectives of this session are to:

- To read biographical articles and extract important information from them.
- To develop creative writing skills.
- To learn from the life and work of exemplary individuals.
- To relate to an individual and be able to think from their point of view.

Expected Outcomes

By the end of the session learners will have:

- Read up to four biographical articles.
- Made summaries or extracted the main ideas presented in the articles.
- Discussed and compared notes with their peers.
- Written a piece of creative writing.

Areas involved

- Language
 - Reading
 - Writing
- Citizenship
 - Values Formation
 - Social Responsibility
- Environment
 - Environmental Conservation

Activity: Introducing the Figures

Objectives

- To learn about the lives and work of two environmental activists.
- To be able to read and understand biographical articles.

Expected Outcomes

- Learners will have read about Wangari Maathai and Greta Thunberg and their work.

Teaching Instructions

Provide learners with the two pieces of reading material for each figure and give time to read. Ask them to think and note down the challenges and achievements for each one.

Suggested Guidelines

If the learners you are working with find it difficult to read, you may prefer to provide one article for each figure.

Student Instructions

Read the following biographies and articles about Wangari Maathai and Greta Thunberg. While you read, try to identify some of the main challenges they faced and their key achievements.

- Wangari Maathai 1: <https://www.nobelprize.org/prizes/peace/2004/maathai/biographical/>
- Wangari Maathai 2: <https://www.greenbeltmovement.org/wangari-maathai/biography>
- Greta Thunberg 1: <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-49918719>
- Greta Thunberg 2: <https://www.britannica.com/biography/Greta-Thunberg>

Activity: Discussing the Figures

Objectives

To be able to reflect biographical articles on and discuss their understanding.

Expected Outcomes

Learners will have discussed the articles with their peers and selected one of the figures to focus in.

Student Instructions

When you finish reading, make some notes about Wangari Maathai and Greta Thrunberg, focusing on the main challenges they faced and their key achievements. Your notes don't need to be well structured or perfectly written, instead they should capture the important points you found. Discuss your notes with some of your peers and discuss what you thought was most important. After discussing, you can add points to your notes.

Activity: A day in the life of Wangari or Greta

Objectives

- To produce a piece of creative writing.
- To reflect on their understanding from their reading task and peer discussions.
- To relate to an individual and be able to think from their point of view.

Expected Outcomes

- Learners will have produced a piece of creative writing about one of the two figures presented.

Teaching Instructions

Ask learners to select one of the two figures they would like to focus on. Learners will have to produce a piece of creative writing of their choice about their selected figure, creating a fictional situation that would demonstrate how they would react about a challenging situation. They can choose to write a short story, a short play, a diary entry, a letter to a friend or family member, etc. Their writing should clearly present a situation that their figure would have found challenging and describe in detail what they think their figure would have done or thought about it. Their work should be between half and one page long.



Student Instructions

Select one of the two figures you read about and write a short story, a short play, a diary entry, a letter to a friend or family member, or any other type of creative writing that you would like about them. It should present a fictional situation that you need to create that would present a challenge to your figure, describe how your figure would have reacted to this challenge, what they would have thought about it and what they would have done to tackle it if relevant. You should be no less than half a page and no more than one full page.