

Modern Education

A parent is checking out a prospective elementary school, aided by one of the teachers.

(T) This is an unusual school. You should expect differences from what you may have previously experienced

(P) Oh? What's special about the school?

(T) I'll get to the procedural differences, but I have to say straight away that our students are unusual. They all love grammar, comparing grammars from different languages, taking apart sentences to see how they work... they just can't get enough of it.

(P) But surely they learn other things?

(T) Of course. Every day, each student visits three specialized web pages. For example, here's what we call the Penguin site, devoted to math.

(P) And they like to go there and learn math?

(T) Well, we add what's known in the trade as 'grease', in this case a friendly penguin who plays games with them or draws them into puzzles. They like that, though not as much as grammar.

(P) And the second site?

(T) That's the Koala site, where they learn social studies. There the grease is a bubbly koala who dresses up in different national costumes and sometimes introduces them to people in the country or city they're visiting.

(P) I suppose the third site has something to do with language arts?

(T) Indeed. That would be Otter.

(P) What grease do you use there?

(T) No need for anything artificial here. The grease is always grammar on the Otter site.

