

TUTORIAL 2: JAQ AND THE BEANSTALK

ICONS TO HELP YOU NAVIGATE THE COURSE HANDOUTS



Whole class
discussion



Teams/Groups
discussion



Take/make notes



Impromptu talk topic
(speak for 1 min)

Learning Objectives:

By the end of this Tutorial, you will:

- Listen to a short talk and take notes about useful strategies for speaking
- Practice using different types of question for different functions
- Learn about Barrett's taxonomy of comprehension questions
- Apply Barret's Taxa to texts

EXERCISE 1



JUST A MINUTE

- Can you speak for just a minute on a point of interest from the clip?
COLD comments



Joe and Katya Argentine Tango to 'Yakman' by Rag'n' Bone Man - Strictly Come Dancing 2017



EXERCISE 2

- Look this URL up and read the article: <https://www.scmp.com/news/china/policies-politics/article/2148566/revealed-advanced-surveillance-tech-used-chinas-police>
- Make up questions using Barrett's taxonomy of comprehension levels on this short paragraph.

Excerpted from: Revealed: the advanced surveillance 'black tech' within reach of China's police

Reuters, 31 May 2018 published in the South China Morning Post.

It can crack your smartphone password in seconds, rip personal data from call and messaging apps, and peruse your contact book.

The Chinese-made XDH-CF-5600 scanner – or “mobile phone sleuth” as sales staff described it when touting its claimed features – was one of hundreds of surveillance gadgets on display at a police equipment fair in Beijing earlier this month.

The China International Exhibition on Police Equipment is something of a one-stop shop for China's police forces looking to arm up with the latest in "black tech" – a term widely used to refer to cutting-edge surveillance gadgets.

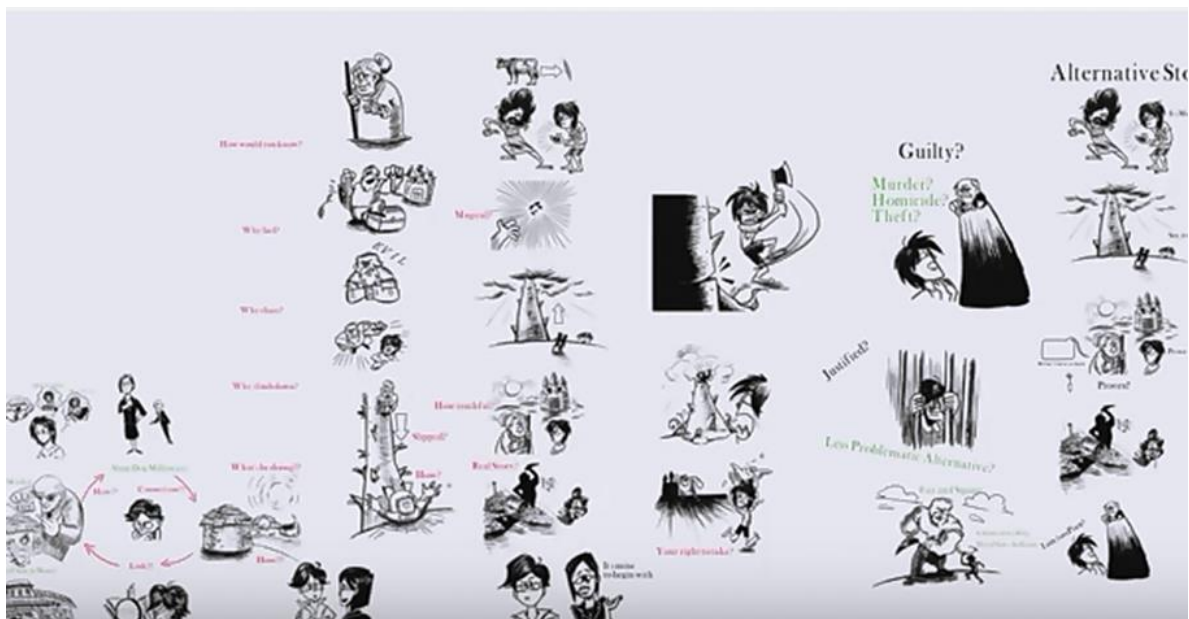
The fair underscores the extent to which China's security forces are using technology to monitor and punish behaviour that runs counter to the ruling Communist Party.

That sort of monitoring – both offline and online – is stoking concerns from human rights groups about the development of a nationwide surveillance system to quell dissent. The Ministry of Public Security, which hosted the Beijing fair, did not respond to a request for comment.



EXERCISE 3

- Watch this: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=St9ZkHZQRQM>
- Read the script – **all the questions have been put in bold for you.**
- What kind of information does each question elicit?



Script – Jaq and the Beanstalk

This is Jaq Tan. She is the original slum dog millionaire .

That’s because she wasn’t always very rich. In fact, she was as poor as a church mouse . She and her widowed mother were about to be evicted and made homeless by their money-minded landlord for being unable to pay the rent, when overnight she became rich.

Back then, there was no 4D, no TOTO, no game shows and no way to suddenly get rich without marrying a rich prince, so how, did Jaq make her fortune when she was only twelve years old? Did she make her money legitimately?

The village matriarch, Gek Poh, certainly asked those questions.
Is there a connection between Jaq becoming rich and a dead giant with a broken neck just outside the hovel that Jaq shared with her mother.

Gek Poh decided to investigate.
She read up on the ABC of Detection: Assume nothing. Believe no one. Check everything.

Gek Poh dropped in on Jaq and asked her a series of probing questions.

“Jaq, how did the giant come to be lying dead outside your gate?”

‘He fell from the beanstalk’.

“What was he doing on the beanstalk?”

‘He was climbing down it.’

“Why was he climbing down it?”

‘He was chasing me.’

“Why was he chasing you?”

‘Because he is a bad chap.’

“Why is he bad?”

‘Because he killed my brave father and brothers and stole our family castle and treasures.’

“How do you know that?”

‘Because an old lady told me.’

Jaq recounts the story of how her mother had asked her to sell their last remaining possession for rent and food, and how she sold the cow for beans, which her mother threw out of the window ,which grew into a giant beanstalk that reached into the sky and how she climbed up it just to see what was at the top, and how an old lady met her and told her that there was a giant and his wife living in the castle with a goose that laid golden eggs and a lot of other treasure beside that really belonged to her family and how the giant had killed her brave father and brothers, which resulted in her and her mother being the only survivors of the rampage and pillage.

Jaq told Gek Poh that the old lady told her it was therefore right and just to get back the golden goose and then get back everything else since she was entitled to them. So she took the goose first.

“But, said Gek Poh, **“How did you know the beans were magic? Why did you assume that it was right to take the goose? Why did you believe the old lady? Didn’t you check that the story was true? Was it right just to run away with the goose?”**

“Wait a minute. How did the giant fall off the beanstalk? Did he slip? How can you say that you don’t know?”

So Jaq had to admit that the giant was chasing her down the beanstalk and to prevent the giant from catching up, she chopped down the beanstalk, and that's when the giant fell down and died.

Is Jaq guilty of killing the giant? Should she pay the penalty for murder or was it homicide? Is she a thief? Should she be in jail? Is she justified in her actions? Could she have got her family's possessions back some other way? Is there an alternative solution which would have been less problematic?

What if : Jaq sells the cow for beans after having asked the seller to show some proof the beans were indeed magical. She met the old lady and asked for proof that the story was true and the old lady proved that she knew Jaq's mother – the old lady mentions the chipped molar at the back of her mouth caused by cracking it on a walnut given to her by Jaq's father on their 15th anniversary, which was the year before Jaq was born, and that she has the other half of a pair of earrings which had dropped off as Jaq and her mother were running away from the giant. Jaq can't sue the giant, she can't afford a lawyer so she has challenged the giant to a duel and like David will slay the giant with a stone and a sling. Thus fighting fairly and squarely, following the convention of the time, for the return of her property.

So this is how Gek Poh, the village busybody became a detective.

What are the characteristics of a critical thinker?

What questions did Gek Poh ask? How did she use her comprehension skills?

COURSE NOTES

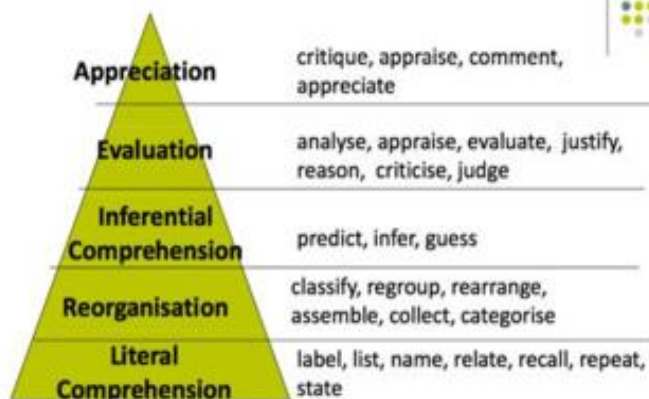


1. BARRETT'S TAXONOMY

A LEARNING FRAME



BARRETT'S TAXONOMY of Comprehension Skills



2. THIS LESSON'S KEY LEARNING POINTS

- Recognise there are different kinds of questions to elicit different sorts and levels of meaning from a text.
- Start asking questions as a matter of habit to be a critical thinker.
- Using a 'framework' for asking questions such as Barrett's Taxonomy helps us to ask questions systematically and build up our 'database' of information systematically too. Comprehensive understanding of information enables us to make more considered decisions.
- Check your understanding of Ennis (2011) by using the Ennis worksheet in the **Extras** work bin on LumiNUS. This worksheet is based on Barrett's taxonomy of comprehension levels.

3. HOMEWORK – Wild Card Practice #2

- Wild card practice #2 – Plan and deliver a 1-2 minute talk.
Using Barrett's taxonomy, what are five questions you could ask about Ennis, 2011?
Which questions would be essential to get answers to and why?