



## A SURVEY – If you were handicapped, what would you ask for?

**T**HE handicapped get special attention and consideration in our Oman. They receive it in all fields, such as education, health, public services, etc. To find out about others' feelings towards the handicapped, I did a survey among my classmates. My question was: **If you were handicapped, what needs and rights would you ask for?** Following are some of the responses I received.

**Waffa Al Khatri** "The most important thing I would ask for is to be treated normally, as a normal person. I mean, I wouldn't like to be called "handicapped" because this word would make me feel different from others."

**Bahia Al Hanai** "Showing pity to a handicapped makes him feel bad, and personally, if I were a handicapped I wouldn't like to hear words of pity from anyone."

**Zeinab Al Hatmi** "I would definitely like to have a good job opportunity just like the others. I mean, I would be so happy if I get the job that I am interested in, so I can pursue a career like any normal person."

**Fatma Masood** "If I were handicapped, I would look for amusing things to do. I would try to overcome my disability by doing things that I love to do such as going shopping, meeting friends, etc. By doing such things, I would definitely have fun!"

**Waffa Al Khatri** "I would be so happy if I could join entertainment centers, such as clubs, health centres, gyms, etc. Such places would help me to improve my skills and spend good times with other handicapped people."

Apparently, all students think that handicapped could carry out their lives normally, practice their own skills and developing their talents. The handicapped are capable, skillful and productive people and shouldn't be neglected.

**Written by: Siham Rashid Al Hanai**  
**Class: Grade 12**  
**School: Laila Bint Hakeem Al Ansaria (1-2)-Ibri**

## I am deaf...but

Yes, I'm deaf but  
I'm so lucky for not hearing  
The sounds of bombs,  
The sound of mournings,  
The sound of shouting  
I'm so lucky for not hearing  
Lies and gossips.  
Really, I'm lucky because all things  
To me sound peacefully  
The same!

**Ameera Salim Al-Hinaei**  
**Grade (9)**  
**Laila Bint Hakeem School**

## Why???

Why does everything look black  
While there are colors?  
Why does the road look dark  
While there is sunshine?  
Why do others walk freely  
When I do need help?  
Why do they call me "blind"  
While it would be better not to  
See the harmful world??

**By: Azza Salim**  
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## Sign Language



# What are the recordable DVD formats?

**D**VD-R and DVD+R can record data once, like CD-R, whereas DVD-RAM, DVD-RW and DVD+RW can be rewritten thousands of times, like CD-RW. DVD-RAM is a removable storage device for computers and video recording. It has become widely used in DVD video recorders because of the flexibility it provides in editing a recording.

The other two recordable format types (DVD-R/RW and DVD+R/RW) are essentially in competition with each other. There are many claims that one format is better than the other, but they are actually very similar.

Many manufacturers now offer Set Top DVD Recorders and DVD Burners that record in both "dash" and "plus" format. Below is a brief look at each format.

## DVD-R

A write-once format that is compatible with many existing DVD Players, Recorders and DVD-ROM drives. Can only be used in DVD Recorders and Burners that support DVD-R recording or multi-format recording (drives that record "plus" or "dash"). Holds 4.7GB of data or video. Typically, it can hold 2 hours of MPEG-2 video on standard (SP) speed setting.

## DVD-RW

DVD-RW is the re-writable version of DVD-R. It allows for approximately 1,000 re-writes before it is used up. In general, DVD-RW discs are slightly less compatible than DVD-R. Can only be used in DVD Recorders and Burners that support DVD-RW recording or multi-format recording (drives that record "plus" or "dash"). Also holds 4.7GB of data or video.



DVD-R

Another write-once recordable DVD format developed separate from DVD-R. These discs are basically the same as DVD-R discs. They hold 4.7GB of data or video and are compatible with most DVD Players and DVD-ROM drives. They can only be used in DVD



Recorders and Burners that support DVD+R or multi-format recorders.

## DVD+RW

The re-writable version of DVD+R. It can record approximately 1,000 times. They also hold 4.7GB of data or video and must be used in DVD+RW compatible Recorders and Burners or multi-format recorders.

## DVD-RAM

DVD-RAM comes in two varieties and storage capacities. These discs come in both cartridge and non-cartridge varieties and come single-sided or double-sided. Offered by only a few manufacturers (Panasonic, Toshiba and a few other minor ones), DVD-RAM is useful if used like a hard drive. Because it supports an incredible 100,000 re-writes, you can use the disc to record TV shows, view them and then re-write over them many times. Single sided discs hold 4.7GB, double-sided 9.4GB, allowing for longer recording times. DVD-RAM is the least compatible of the 5 recording formats, and is typically used for recording and playback in the same Set Top DVD Recorder.

## FINAL THOUGHTS

When choosing a format to use, keep in mind that DVD-R/RW will not record in a DVD+R/RW recorder or burner, and vice-versa. This is not an issue when using a Multi-Format recorder or burner, and most DVD players and DVD-ROM drives will read either format.



# Imagination

**O**UR imagination can lead us to an entirely different world. It can lead us to find ways to solve problems and improve our life. With imagination, we can create a better place and plan for a better future.

Imagination is like a box. Our hands reach deep into this box, discover and find a tool that has not been discovered yet. Most of the stories written are based on the writers' imagination.

Therefore, we need to improve our imagination by reading more stories. We should spend at least 10 minutes every day thinking about our day and writing about what we saw or felt.

This helps our imagination grow and use it for useful things like inventing new machines.

Dear friends, you can take my hand and fly with me to a DIFFERENT WORLD full of love, peace and friendship.

Name: Wafa Mohammed Al-Ismaily  
School: Shamsa Al Khalili School (5-10)  
Grade Nine

## The War

I'm standing here Without a move.

I can't do it any more.

It is crashing my heart can you see.

I can't keep it inside me.

I can't I accept it anymore.

It's really hard on me.

We must Stop it we must stop the war.

Who can Help me and be with me.

It is not a game it's not a film for sure.

It is crashing my heart crashing all the hearts

— Written by: Maryam Muneer AL-Blushi

## Smile

Smile... laugh and leave sadness behind you.

Draw flowers on your cheeks,  
and never say I can't.

Why are you always sad and your heart  
so full of hate?

Smile... be happy and try to forget your pain.

Forget everything cruel and work on your hope.

Forget everything passed and let your  
smile come back.

I want you to be happy, as you were before,

And fill the world with your smile.

Smile... and get over your sadness.

We are all with you heart and soul...

We all dream with you.

We want to see you carrying love in your hands

Sharing it with the world.

Then you will never be sad.

An Arabic chant: Smile

By: Ahmed Al Jabri & Hamad Al Jabri

Translated by: Jawaher Eid Abdullallah Al Shihi  
Grade: 10/4

## My beloved leader "Sultan"

WHEN you were born, the sun was shining high. When you came, the country has changed to the best. The whole world was changing but it changed to the best too. The building has been growing up and the life has become easier than ever before because you are the spirit for this country. You are the kindest man and the big father. In this country, when you came and when I always see your pictures, I can value and appreciate the meaning of love. I know how the wise people would look like. I put my hands up stretching to the doors of heaven every day, praying the Almighty Allah to bring you to my small world and wishing one day to see you in front of me because you are my father and you are my sultan. This is a happy and sunny day; we all stand saluting for your majesty. In the national day, all Omani people indeed know and feel what the taste of life and what it does mean.



I VISITED Muscat, the capital of the Sultanate of Oman. Muscat is a big city. It has many famous buildings, hotels, mosques, a university, museums and forts.

It also has beaches and parks. I visited Sultan Qaboos University.

It is very big and well laid out.

Then I visited Al Alam palace. It is a beautiful building. I visited the Jalali and Merani forts as well. They are very old. After that, I went to Qurm Park.

Then I visited the International Book Fair, which was held at the Oman Exhibition Centre.

It had a variety of books from publishers all over the world. I also visited the grand mosque of Sultan Qaboos and A' Seeb beach. Muscat is a very clean and beautiful city. Tourists from different countries come to visit Muscat.

I like visiting Muscat because it is a very famous city in Arabia

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## A place I visited



## How can we teach stories effectively

### Introduction

There is no doubt that stories play an important role in learning. Therefore you can find them in all cultures around the world along the time. Yolen (1986:2) cited in Fitzgibbon and Wilhelm(1998:22) says "storytellers breathed life into human cultures". Omani children as others around the world are fond of stories. Thus, the English Language Department in Ministry of Education in the Sultanate of Oman confirms the necessity of teaching stories in the English course book. As a result, stories are included in all curriculums in the several levels, either in the general course books or in the basic ones. So how can we, Omani teachers exploit stories and their experiences to teach English successfully?

### Why stories ?

In general, human beings are fond of stories since the beginning of time. Especially children love listening or reading different types of stories most. As we know that children like animals, and we noticed that they like reading and listening to stories which

are about animals. I noticed the difference when I taught two different stories. The first story was in grade five, which was about two children. The second one was in grade two, about fox and duck. I found that children who were in grade two were more interested. So it helps learners to learn different aspects of the language. Furthermore Connolly (2005:1) mentioned that " children feel more comfortable and can build on their self confidence self esteem in the learning environment". Also it develops learner's imagination. Sometimes learners link some of their vocabulary that they learnt with some situation in the story which stimulates their background vocabulary to pop up to be used in the new situation. That leads us to confirm what Crichton(2005:1) says " re-telling a story is perfect for second language acquisition that the grammar and lexis of the language are repeated meaningfully many times".

### The successful story:

The successful story should satisfy children's needs. Therefore we have



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to take into the consideration of some of the areas in children's learning life such as their ages and we should not underestimate their characteristics. Although there are so many useful stories help pupils to learn, some types of stories are useless, may improve aggressive behaviors and others lead children to bad behaviors. So we, as teachers and parents should choose the appropriate one. Thus it ought to lead and improve children's behaviors to the best. Crichton(2005:1) mentioned that stories " can modify negative behavior and increase concentration". Furthermore, teaching stories enriches pupils' vocabulary and improves their language features. Elley (1989:174) - in

experiments in New Zealand- read stories aloud to elementary school children without any teacher explanation; the results showed that" oral stories reading constitutes a significant source of vocabulary acquisition".

Storytellers should be aware that the level of the story should be suitable for students' ages. For example, the used vocabulary should be not difficult and on the other hand not too easy. I still remember that I could understand all of my mother's stories when I was a child, because most of their vocabulary were average and when I faced any new or difficult words, immediately asked for clarification. Thus, words should be known with an appropriate amount of new words. Any story with many difficult or very easy and know words is not acceptable. The idea is create some challenges for the pupils to force them to think.

This is what Brown and Hardo ( 2000:207 ) mentioned about Krashen's theory " i + 1". In case of it is lower than their level; it leads to boring and vice versa, if is it upper; it creates a tiring atmosphere. This leads us to say that

children have limited attention. So the story also should be not too long. It should be interesting and it will be better if is it from their culture. Usually everyone is more familiar with his culture. Absolutely it seems too difficult to teach for example Omani children about the Chinese's or Japanese's culture.

The written sentences ought to be short and simple with a clear big size to be big enough to display. Otherwise, they would prevent children to catch the full meaning. Also the pictures are advised to be colored and clear to show the exact situation. As a parent I choose colorful stories with clear and big letters when I buy stories for my children.

One of the important things is the attractive title and the beginning of the story. Crichton(2005:1) mentioned that " the beginning of the story is like the opening gate to a beautiful garden where you will invite the listeners in to see the trees and smell the flowers". In addition any successful story should have moral teaching. Furthermore it was found that the repeated sentences help learners to learn the new vocabulary.

Also if the utterances go in rhythm, they would enjoy children and they may memorize the full utterance-

es. Pupils can predict and guess meaning of some new words by exploiting their background knowledge as well as the available visual or their intuition to guess meaning of new words. Finally, if we are going to use most of the features that I mentioned so far, they would help children to read, understand, enrich their vocabulary and interact more. Furthermore they would help children to improve their imagination and prediction for the next events.

### The successful story lesson:

Any story can be retold with many people, but not all of them have the essential skills and methods to teach stories effectively. So the successful teacher is, who can exploit his experience and skills in order to achieve the required aims. Therefore teachers are supposed to be aware of the suitable methods for teaching children stories and taking into the consideration of the features that I mentioned so far such as pupils' characteristics and their level. Hopefully that leads us to talk about what the teacher needs before, during and after retelling the story.

Although finding the comfortable and a secure place for pupils learn-

