



Level

- Intermediate+

Aims

1. Recognising author purpose
2. Differentiating between writing genres (lyrics vs written story)
3. Maintain author meaning and intention when paraphrasing
4. Recognise pitfalls of automatic translators

Materials

- Theme song lyrics
- Theme song video (<http://youtu.be/hBe0VCso0qs>)
- Theme song + Google translate experiment (<http://youtu.be/LMkJuDVJdTw>)
- Theme song live reunion (<http://youtu.be/BYep0P9mVml>)

Possible procedure

- Begin with background introduction
 - American TV sitcoms (e.g. Fresh Prince of Bel-air)
 - Will Smith (i.e. DJ Jazzy Jeff and the Fresh Prince)
 - Philadelphia, Bel-air
- Theme song video
 - 1st view – Show video for initial storyline
 - 2nd view – Go over guided questions before viewing, post view: students discuss their answers.
 - 3rd view – Give lyrics and watch with lyrics; post-view: take up guided questions, go over vocabulary issues (includes aim #1). Spend some time on question #8 as a discussion with related follow-up questions (teacher or student-generated)
- Genre-specific writing (aim #2) – Give students Fresh Prince of Bel-Air written story. Allow students to compare with the lyrics page. Ask students to identify differences in style using “The case of lyrics vs Story” chart.
- Aim #3 – Take the stanza / paragraph example to show an example or rewriting it in your own words (paraphrasing).
- Aim #4 – Cut up Google Translate lyrics and pass out. Demonstrate that they represent the Google Translate version of one part of the song. Ask students to identify which part they think it is.
- Ask students to explain why they think so and why it isn't a good paraphrase if any.

- Theme song + Google translate video
 - 1st view – Show video up to first segment complete. Anything different? (No.)
 - 2nd view – Show in segments. Ask what they have done to the lyrics. Students identify their cut-up lyric and where it falls within the song.
- Optional if there are at least two of same L1 speakers in the class: Language “Chinese whispers” – Have students make a couple sentences about any story in English. Pass it on to student L1a. They translate to L1a. Give to student L1ab. They translate back to English. Give it to L1ba. They translate to L1b. Give to student L1bb. They translate back to English, and so on. What is the final result? Compare with original sentences.

Guided Comprehension Questions

- 1. Why did Will, the main character, write this?**
- narrative (tell a story to the audience), give the premise to the TV show plot
- 2. What kind of character is Will?**
- a teenage boy from Philadelphia who moves to Bel-Air
- 3. Was Will a good student?**
- No, he spent most of his time on playgrounds playing basketball.
- 4. What prompted Will to move to Bel-Air?**
- he got in a fight on a basketball court with some other boys and his mother became afraid for his safety. She made him move to Bel-Air with his Aunt & Uncle.
- 5. What is the difference between Will’s situation in Philadelphia and in Bel-Air?**
- He has a more urban lifestyle in Philadelphia; his life in Bel-air is very affluent.
- 6. How did he feel about being sent to Bel-Air? Did it change?**
- At first, he was upset by it, but then decided he should make the best of the situation.
- 7. What was his impression of the taxi he took to his Aunt & Uncle’s house?**
- It smelled bad, but had some cool dice hanging from the mirror.
- 8. At the end of the song, how does his character feel about being in Bel-Air?**
- He plans to live there like a prince.
- 9. What do you think the show’s plot centre around?**
- Varying answers, e.g. a rags to riches story, how Will Smith’s character clashes and adapts to life as in an affluent family and society

The case of lyrics vs. story

	Lyrics	Story
Visual differences	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Short lines • Each line starts with a capital letter 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Full paragraphs with indents after the first line • Capitals at the beginning of sentences only
Language	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of punctuation • Redundant language to keep necessary rhythm • Lack of context provided for certain lines, likely because of visual aid (video) • Grammatical losses • Idiomatic expressions specific to genre 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sentences have proper punctuation e.g. periods end them. • More concise • Added context so reader understands the situation • Full sentences to maintain grammatical flow • Idiomatic expressions reduced except within quotes

Theme Song Lyrics

Now, this is a story all about how
My life got flipped-**turned upside down**
And I'd like to **take a minute,** **just sit right there**
I'll tell you how I became the prince of a town called
Bel-Air

In west Philadelphia born and raised
On the playground was where I spent most of my days
Chillin' out maxin' relaxin' **all cool**
And all shootin some b-ball outside of the school
When a couple of guys who were up to no good
Started making trouble in my neighborhood
I got in one little fight and my mom got scared
She said 'You're moving with your auntie and uncle in
Bel-Air'

I begged and pleaded with her day after day
But she packed my suit case and sent me on my way
She gave me a kiss and then she gave me my ticket.
I put my Walkman on and said, 'I might as well kick it'

First class, yo this is bad
Drinking orange juice out of a champagne glass.
Is this what the people of Bel-Air living like?
Hmmmmm this might be alright.

I whistled for a cab and when it came near
The license plate said fresh and it had dice in the mirror
If anything I could say that this cab was rare
But I thought 'Nah, forget it - Yo, homes to Bel Air'

I pulled up to the house about 7 or 8
And I yelled to the **cabbie** 'Yo homes smell ya later'
I looked at my kingdom
I was finally there
To sit on my throne as the Prince of Bel-Air

Theme Song Story

This is a story all about how my life was flipped
upside down. I'd like to tell you how I became the
prince of a town called Bel-Air.

In west Philadelphia, I was born and raised. On the
playground was where I spent most of my days,
relaxing and playing some basketball outside of the
school. One day, a couple of guys who were up to no
good started making trouble in my neighbourhood. I
got in one little fight and my mom became scared. She
said, "You're moving with your auntie and uncle in Bel-
Air."

I begged and pleaded with her day after day, but
she packed my suit case and sent me on my way. She
gave me a kiss and then she gave me my ticket. I put
my Walkman on and said, "I might as well kick it."

On the airplane, I flew first class, which was great,
drinking orange juice out of a champagne glass. I
wondered, "Is this what the people of Bel-Air live like?
This might be alright."

After I arrived at the airport, I whistled for a cab.
When it came near, I saw the license plate was labelled
"Fresh" and it had dice in the mirror. I thought that
maybe this cab was special, but instead I decided
maybe it wasn't for this area. I told the cab driver to
take me home to Bel-Air.

We pulled up to my aunt and uncle's house at about
7 or 8 o'clock. I yelled to the cab driver, "Yo homes
smell ya later." I looked at the house: my new
kingdom. Finally I was there, to sit on my throne as the
Prince of Bel-Air.

Theme Song Lyrics	Potential paraphrase	OK? No, why not?
<p>Now, this is a story all about how My life got flipped-turned upside down And I'd like to take a minute, just sit right there I'll tell you how I became the prince of a town called Bel-Air</p>	<p>Will's life suddenly changed one day. This is the story of how that happened and how he came to live in Bel-Air.</p>	<p>Yes.</p>
<p>In west Philadelphia born and raised On the playground was where I spent most of my days Chillin' out maxin' relaxin' all cool And all shootin some b-ball outside of the school</p>	<p>Will grew up in west Philadelphia, where he often played basketball.</p>	<p><i>No, it is missing the implication that he skipped classes to play basketball.</i></p>
<p>When a couple of guys who were up to no good Started making trouble in my neighborhood I got in one little fight and my mom got scared She said 'You're moving with your auntie and uncle in Bel-Air'</p>		
<p>I begged and pleaded with her day after day But she packed my suit case and sent me on my way She gave me a kiss and then she gave me my ticket. I put my Walkman on and said, 'I might as well kick it'</p>		
<p>First class, yo this is bad Drinking orange juice out of a champagne glass. Is this what the people of Bel-Air living like? HmMMMM this might be alright</p>		
<p>I whistled for a cab and when it came near The license plate said fresh and it had dice in the mirror If anything I could say that this cab was rare But I thought 'Nah, forget it - Yo, homes to Bel Air'</p>		
<p>I pulled up to the house about 7 or 8 And I yelled to the cabbie 'Yo homes smell ya later' I looked at my kingdom I was finally there To sit on my throne as the Prince of Bel-Air</p>		

They do not get better

I saw the end

A little afraid to hit me and my Mom

But I don't think, forget it

On the farm

On Sunday has been updated

Getting environmental problems in my territory

In a short period of time

And he said "cool", is given in the mirror

Cold, apricot, relaxing satisfaction

I Bel-Air home!

Fire in the house

I kissed a driver at the end of the room

When a couple of men, they do not improve

Your aunt knows your uncle in Bel-Air

We have Bel-Air in a movie

Next week is not good

I have nothing

I got diamonds, winter features, poor and homeless

But I do not think so