Developing linguistic, intercultural and personal competences through short stories

The Kite-Maker (by Anu Kumar)

Activity 1. Introducing the new vocabulary

kite = a toy consisting of a light frame with thin material stretched over it, flown in the wind at the end of a long string;

Utraan = a festival in India during which people fly kites;

riot = a violent disturbance of the peace by a crowd; an occasion when a large number of people behave in a noisy, violent, and uncontrolled way in public, often as a protest;

torchlight = the light from a burning or an electric torch;

Eid = (from Arabic) the festival or feast of the breaking of the fast;

Activity 2. Listening Comprehension https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7-Sw7cesDN8

Listen to the story and decide if the sentences below are true (T) or false (F):

1. Zaheera, Rasool's wife stayed up with him while he worked on the kite.

2. The kite was shaped like a dove and its beak held something considered to be a symbol of peace.

3. Zaheera's grandfather's house was on the same side of the border.

4. The couple lost their kite in the wild desert wind two days before the kite-flying festival.

5. The kite was found across the border and eventually returned to them.

Activity 3. Sentence Ordering

Listen to the story and put the sentences in the correct chronological order to get the plot (main events):

On the night before the kite festival, Rasool's melancholic wife, Zaheera, helped him fly the kite, but a strong wind carried it away.

Rasool tried to cheer Zaheera up by promising to buy her a young goat, the best in the market, for Eid.

The kite-maker Ahmed Rasool stayed up late making a kite shaped like a dove carrying an olive branch, hoping to bring peace amidst the conflict dividing his country.

Later, soldiers found Rasool's lost kite across the border and returned his long-lost son, who was able to regain his memory and remember his village based on the kite.

Zaheera, his wife, no longer stayed up with him while he worked, because recent events had left her terribly unhappy.

Activity 4. Character description

Read the sentences below and say if they describe Rasool or Zaheera:

1. ..... was determined to make the finest kite he/she had ever made.

2. ..... had lost his/her previous enthusiasm for life.

3. ..... refused to lose hope.

4. ..... cried himself/herself to sleep that night.

5. .....'s face was empty of all feeling.

Activity 5. Creative Writing

Imagine you are a kite-maker. If you could use only 50 words, what message would you write on your masterpiece if you knew it was going to be read by God?

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