

“Creative classrooms: transforming learning”

“Is memorization the only way to teach paragraph construction? Can’t my students follow some other methods?” This turmoil forced Mr. Nurul Islam to adopt a fantastic technique of writing paragraphs. Mr. Islam is a secondary school teacher at Palashbari High School, Gangni, Meherpur. He has been teaching English for the last 25 years. The school stands just beside a market and a river..

That day the lesson was “A Village Market”. Mr. Islam asked 4 of his students to visit the market and write down what they could see there. He also provided them with some questions which they needed to answer while walking in the market. The explorers came back within five minutes with lots of information. Then he asked some questions about the village market. Students smartly answered those from their fresh and real experience. After that the teacher asked his students to write a paragraph on the mentioned topic. He walked around the class while they were creating their own paragraphs. Finally he checked their copies and gave some tips on the errors they had made.

After few days, a Govt. high official came to visit his class. He asked the students some questions and they responded in English. They even asked a few questions to the visitor in English! The visitor went to another class and Mr. Islam called a student to the front to act as the recent visitor. He then asked rest of the class to ask him something about him.

This was not all. On another day, there was an accident on the road. Some of the students went to the teacher and requested, “Sir, can we go there to see the accident?”

Why?

We will write another paragraph. “A Road Accident” is in our syllabus!

That doesn’t seem the right thing to do if it is a serious accident. But you can write from your imagination. I can help you where you need it.

This engaging way of teaching is how teachers can bring about changes.