

**Teacher's comments on
Minority & Diference in YA Literature,
KidLit 2.1 -- February 2012**

Student		
BONTEA Bianca	Positives	Interesting exercice about the words related to royalty.
	Negatives	<p>No introduction for the text</p> <p>Vocabulary : Romanian words without diacriticals and with spelling mistakes (<i>a batjocorii, a ridiculariza</i>).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - some kind of endnotes; no marking of those words within the text (like italics or indices) - wrong explanations : <i>withal</i> ≠ vital = cu toate acestea; <i>clad</i> ≠ dublat = îmbrăcat; cuffs ≠ manșetă = scatoalce; chamberlains ≠ fameni (barbati decazuti moral) [secondary sense] = șambelani (funcție la curte)[primary sense]. - equivalentents given in the wrong grammatical form : <i>rags</i> [p.] given as zdreanta instead of <i>zdrențe</i>; <i>swearing</i> [pres.partic.] given as <i>a injura</i> [infinitive]; <i>sordidness</i> [noun] given as josnic, murdar [adj.], instead of <i>mizerie</i> [noun] <p>Reading comprehension – some questions do not make much sense (<i>Who helped Tom learn about princely life?</i> – as the answer is not a person but an object, books), some are redundant (<i>Which is his biggest dream?</i> and <i>What did he dream about?</i>)</p> <p>Activities – only grammar... Some errors (what is the <i>infinite form</i> of a verb?). Some is too boring (collect <u>all</u> the verbs...)</p> <p>Five paragraphs for a creative exercise is too much!</p> <p>Teacher's guide – only key to the exercises (and not all..). No extra explanatory material</p>
CHIORAN Alina	Positives	<p>Vocabulary as footnotes, BUT (see below)</p> <p>Very nice list of the epoch's social and political events in the Teacher's Guide</p>
	Negatives	<p>Introduction : Some of the comment is maybe above the students' level</p> <p>Some errors in your own formulations: "Bellow (= below) you will find about the born (=birth) of two boys, one pour (=poor) and one rich...".</p> <p>Or: "Do (=would) you agree with the idea of shitching (=swapping places) if you were the Prince?</p> <p>"You can ask your English teacher for advices" (= advice, as this word has NO PLURAL)</p> <p>"Answers warry" (=vary!)</p> <p>Vocabulary: the text is fairly difficult for a 12-year old. Not enough words are explained. Missing explanations for: mellow, gay,</p>

Teacher's Comments on the Anthology Fragments for Minority in YA Lit - 2

		<p>banners, bonfires, revelers, lapped, rags, jostled, bereaved, masonry, turrets etc.</p> <p>Activities: no clear strategy and logic in their ordering. Some are difficult given the present point the students are in ("Write a different ending of the story" presupposes them reading the whole novel). Some contain errors (the film is not <i>bu Mark Twain</i>).</p> <p>Some would require at least one example (the exercise of transformation of Adjectives into Nouns...)</p>
BOTOS Simina	Positives	<p>Good Introduction</p> <p>Clearly laid-out footnotes + italics for unknown words.</p> <p>A good variety of exercises for RC & Vocabulary.</p> <p>Ingenious exercise "Eliminate the intruder"</p> <p>Very neatly laid out.</p> <p>Clear Teacher's Guide.</p>
	Negatives	<p>Some cultural contexts would've needed some explanation. Like the superstitions: "There was a cross in the left boot-heel made with big nails, to keep off the devil"</p> <p>Some words are left unexplained: such is <i>interest</i>, whose banking meaning (=dobândă) is certainly unknown to your students.</p> <p>The fill-in RC (ex. no.2) is a bit simplistic (and too easy...)</p> <p>The follow-up activities are a bit uninspired and do not invite the child to read on the whole novel.</p>
BICĂZAN Manuela	Positives	<p>You took the courageous decision to <u>adapt</u> the text to better suit the students' level of knowledge and needs.</p> <p>Great choice of fragment.</p> <p>Vocabulary elements signalled by italics & explained in footnotes (very clear). (But I do not understand why all the explanations are between brackets)</p> <p>Good to start the RC with a True/False test, as this is the easiest and requires the least participation.</p> <p>Intelligent idea to deal with report verbs in the Activities section, and continue with "report the following statements". Makes sense.</p> <p>Very good Teacher's Guide, that includes some more background info on Porter, that is relevant to the present text.</p>
	Negatives	<p>I think the introduction should have mentioned who the protagonists of this dialogue are. We have to read 18 lines until we found out that Pollyanna's interlocutor is Nancy (and we still do not know who she is)</p>
COSTEA Codruța	Positives	<p>Concise and clear Introduction to the text.</p> <p>Good and meaningful questions aimed at enhancing (and not just testing) Reading Comprehension.</p>

Teacher's Comments on the Anthology Fragments for Minority in YA Lit - 3

		<p>Extensive, varied and fun set of Activities. Nice set of grammar games. Very thoroughly constructed Teacher's Guide. Gives not just the answers, but also some general orientation.</p>
	Negatives	<p>No precision of the intended audience (grade? age?) Vocabulary – some of the words might have been better explained in Romanian Exercise II in the Grammar section is not too clearly formulated. Do you mean the Genitive, or the contrasted verb <i>is</i>, or <i>has</i>? You must do something about the formatting of that grid (crossword puzzle)... Some extra information on the interpretation of the fragment would've been useful in the Teacher's Guide section.</p>
MICLEA Lavinia	Positives	<p>Concise and clear introduction to the text. Nice choice of fragment. Three exercises of Reading Comprehension – varied.</p>
	Negatives	<p>The Activities are somewhat minimalistic. The Teacher's Guide could have included more background info about the author or the story.</p>
BOLCHIȘ Irina		
MOISA Ana-Maria	Positives	<p>Good informative Intro about the storyline (even though nothing about its author). Great choice of text – it has a thriller feel, and kids of this age are fascinated by such texts! True or False choice test as the first RC tool – always a good idea to start this way (as kids tend to be more passive at the beginning of such RC drill). Ordering sentences, and pick-the-right-answer – other good ideas for RC. Your exclusive focus on creative writing seems a fit one – considering that this is a text that challenges the kids' imagination. Good basic info in the TG.</p>
	Negatives	<p>Some typos: <i>phnatom</i> Maybe some words or phrases still needed an explanation: <i>on a dare</i>, <i>leaned</i>, <i>drooled</i> I would have liked to see some exercises with the vocabulary... A key to which creative outputs would be completely out of the line with the actual text wouldn't have hurt...</p>