

# In the Classroom

## *En Classe*

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This section presents descriptions of teaching techniques or practical classroom activities.

*Cette section est consacrée à la description de différentes techniques ou activités d'enseignement.*

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### **FICTIONARY**

#### **Myra Thorkelson**

Fictionary is a game which can be played by almost all levels of ESL students from elementary through advanced. To play this game students get into groups of four to six.

One student looks up a word in the dictionary that he believes the students will not know the meaning of. This student then pronounces the word and spells it. The other students write down the word as they hear it, the part of speech, the meaning and a sample of usage. Unless they know the word, they have to make guesses.

The student who looked up the word meanwhile, copies the part of speech, meaning and usage from the dictionary. All the students jot down their responses on identical cards. The cards are then collected by the first student and read out. Students have to decide which is the correct definition. When they have made a decision, the proper one is read out. Another student then takes his turn with the dictionary.

The game reinforces dictionary skills, parts of speech, sentence structure and spelling. The hilarious definitions and amusing decisions which frequently result provide the opportunity for students to engage in a variety of communicative functions including agreeing, disagreeing, joking, and arguing. My students love Fictionary. Give it a try and see for yourself.

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### **THE AUTHOR**

Myra Thorkelson has taught ESL in PEI. She has recently moved to Fiji where she will be teaching at the Teachers' College in Suva.