

USE YOUR IMAGINATION

Teaching Tips

A MULTI-USE VISUAL AID

Did you ever wish you could have one, only one visual aid that you could take to all your classes one day and use for lots of different purposes? Well, let me introduce you to *Sally*. Take *Sally* to class and introduce her as your special guest star of the day. *Sally* could be a cutout picture of a woman or girl from a magazine, a line drawing on the board, a stuffed animal, a puppet...whatever you want. *Sally* could be *Peter*, *Mr. Smith*, *the Johnsons*, *Fido* or *Spot*. She could be a woman, girl, man or animal. In reality, it doesn't matter. You can take *Sally* one day and *Peter* the next.

When you take *Sally* to your classes one day, you can use her in many different ways, depending on the level you are teaching. For example:

(1) Introduce *Sally* to the class and let them introduce her to each other.

(2) Let *Sally* talk to the class about herself, where she lives, what she does, etc.. Of course, you talk for her. (Present tense of BE in first person-I)

(3) Talk about her or let the class tell you about her. (Present tense of BE in third person-she (or he or it))

(4) Use her to practice possessive adjectives (my, her (or his)) and possessive nouns (*Sally's*) while talking about her hair, eyes, clothes, etc.

(5) Describe her to practice descriptive adjectives.

(6) Have the class imagine what she is doing at a specific hour. (Present Progressive)

(7) Talk about what she did yesterday. (Past tense)

(8) Talk about what she is going to do tomorrow. (Future tense)

(9) Compare her to members of the class or to another special guest star. (Comparative/ Superlative)

(10) Discuss what *Sally* had for breakfast. (Food vocabulary; Mass/Count nouns)

(11) Pass *Sally* to different students so they can talk to her to practice conversations. Obviously, you or another student have to answer for her.

(12) Let the best behaved student or group take care of her for a day.

(13) Have students write paragraphs or stories about her using different topics.

(14) Use her for listening practices, either as your conversation partner or talk about her and have students answer questions about what they heard.

OR?

Use your imagination and find other activities for your versatile visual aid.

---JoAnn Miller