



Departures

Pre-reading activities

1. Groups of 4. Every group is a family, however, one member of each family has to leave now – the one who is different. Students have to decide within their groups who is different and who is going to leave the family. There may be various differences – the only one wearing a black T-shirt, glasses, the only one with short hair etc. Nobody wants to leave; the leaving one is a loser. After one of them leaves, we talk about the reasons why they have left. The activity is repeated again until there are just two people left in every group – the winners. This way we also form new groups – the drop-outs from every round form a new group for the following activities.
2. Home – in groups, create a definition. What makes home? Illustrate your definition creating a living picture. Discussions over the living pictures.
3. Discussion: Leaving home. What possible reasons could someone have to make them leave their home?
4. In groups: Imagine you move to a new place. What would you consider the first steps to be done to feel there home?
5. Comparing the answers, discussion.
6. A member of each group is packing their stuff for a different reason (10-day summer holiday by the sea; 5-day business trip; going to prison for 3 years; moving away from their parents; leaving home forever – chosen on cards). Every group makes a list of things they would pack for them and they prepare a living picture from the moment of saying good-bye. After that they show the pictures and read out the list – the others guess where and for how long they are going.

Reading activities

1. How many characters appear in the story? Do they have anything in common? What? Why are they packing?
2. Every group describes one of the characters. Discussion, introducing the characters.
3. Every group writes three entries from the person's diary – a week before the day (life in their native country), on the day (packing, the breaking point), a week after the day (life in the new country). They illustrate each diary entry with a living picture. Reading, discussion.

Post-reading activities

1. Which country would you choose if you had to emigrate? Why?
2. What would you miss most from your country? What would you miss least? Why?



Departures

23rd February 1939, Katowice, Poland

A small suitcase. A shirt, a pair of trousers, a pair of shoes, a jacket, a jumper, 2 pairs of underpants, 2 pairs of socks, 2 ties, a scarf, gloves, a hat. A towel, soap, toothbrush, toothpaste, eau-de-toilette, comb. Documents, photographs, money.

5th September 1968, Prague, Czechoslovakia

A large suitcase. 2 shirts, 3 T-shirts, 2 pairs of jeans, a pair of shoes, sandals, 2 sweaters, 5 pairs of underpants, 7 pairs of socks, swim trunks. A toothbrush, toothpaste, soap, shampoo, deodorant, a comb. Money, passport, driving licence, university diploma. Camera.

13th April 1992, Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina

A small backpack. Passport, money, address book. 2 T-shirts, 3 pairs of knickers, 2 bras, 3 pairs of socks, a pair of jeans, a sweater, a jacket. A toothbrush.

8th August 2014, Donetsk, Ukraine

A medium-size suitcase. A pair of trousers, 2 T-shirts, 3 pairs of underpants, 2 pairs of socks, a pair of shoes. A toothbrush, toothpaste. Passport, money, debit card, smart phone, laptop, charger.

26th November 2016, Aleppo, Syria

A small backpack. 2 T-shirts, jeans, a jumper, a scarf, a cap. Money, passport, debit card, smart phone, charger.