

Dear Everybody,

I hope the work with Bonnie went well and that you learnt plenty new things.

I had a great evening yesterday as I went to Robert Feather on teaching business in a respectful humane way and then to Sezgi Yalin on creative writing.....there I met F. Both were excellent workshops though the pace of Roberts was maybe a bit better then Sezgi's. What a joy to learn loads of new things alongside trying to share some of my own. It is the learning alongside the teaching that makes the summer a marvellous harvest time.

Today we continue our work with texts this first period and then at 11.00 you have Simon Marshall working with you on using dialogues. This afternoon we will look at role play, but roleplay with a bit of stuffing in it, with a bit of depth. Simon is a whizz at language things.. a really whizz.

I think the time has come to ask you this pertinent question: WHAT COURSE ARE YOU ON?

In this room there are 12 parallel courses in progress and I only know for sure about my own. You are all very different people imbued with different cultures, with diverse life experience, sculpted and moulded by the particular students you teach in the special conditions in which you teach. You perceive, experience, process and evaluate each exercise we do radically differently from your neighbour.

What I offer you is the TERRITORY but you each map that territory in your own powerful way.

I would love it if you wrote me a letter in which you attempt to give me some inkling of the course you personally are actually on, the course as you live it and see it.

When you have finished reading we will do a wee exercise on this idea of territory and map, a very useful distinction. When people come into the staffroom and say " We did the present perfect this morning" I am left wondering what they actually think they mean.

Bemusedly, (old man)

Mario

Dear Mario!

It's difficult for me to start this letter as I said to you I'm not very good at writing, anyway I'll try to express what I do really think about this course. After the two or three previous days of having the feeling I wasn't really going to learn many things, I changed my mind when you stayed with us for the first period. I started to write down all the activities we were doing in class and I was fascinated to notice I was really interested in all of them.

I was glad to imagine I could practice some of



Then with the students I have already had this ^{last} course. My surprise was starting to grow when I realised that even me I could be able to write some stories, dialogues with the "inputs" you gave us and what's even more I could draw in mind some wonderful pictures of the stories you ~~gave~~ us. You transmit enthusiasm and you really think that when something deserves trying it's worth while trying, ~~and to~~ see what's going to happen. You are giving us new ideas to make our class less monotonous and all the skills and "forget" our coursebooks as they ~~are~~ Thanks for reminding me that my job is one that many people could envy and because it allows me to use my imagination which always keeps me alive and happy. My best wishes for you. Thanks for ~~your~~ your teaching E