

Class Level: SPL 6	Topic: Current Events	Class Length: 3 hrs.	Date:
Lesson Objectives: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Predict news stories based on limited information • Discuss current national and international events • Create a news story • Edit a news story for factual and linguistic errors • Perform timed reading exercise of current event story 			
Language Skill Proficiency: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Speaking ▪ Listening ▪ Reading ▪ Writing 		Materials and Equipment: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>Sets of cut up news headlines</i> ▪ <i>111 Year-Old Man Reveals All (both versions)</i> ▪ <i>Waves of Children Pouring into the U.S.</i> 	
<h2>Activity Plan</h2> <p>Warm Up: Divide class into small groups. Explain to Ss that headlines are titles of news stories. Pass out <i>sets of cut up newspaper headlines</i> (one set per group). Tell the groups to try and form the 7 headlines out of the words. When the headlines have been assembled, ask each group to read its headlines and tell what each article could be describing. Finally, share the actual titles with Ss. Do they know anything about these news stories?</p> <p>Introduction: Tell Ss that today’s class will focus on current events. Ask Ss who keeps up with current events? Do they do so in English or in their native language? What are today’s current international and national events?</p> <p>Presentation: Write the title of the news story <i>111 Year- Old Man Reveals All</i> on board. Ask Ss to predict words or phrases they think will appear in the story. Next ask Ss to brainstorm what questions they believe will be answered in the story.</p> <p>Practice: Write the following words on the board: <i>supercentenarian, replaced, Africa, involved, invention, doctorate, inmates, paranormal, migrated and lifelong</i>. Go over meanings <u>without</u> referencing the news story. Ask Ss to work in groups and create the news article using the given title (<i>111 Year-Old Man Reveals All</i>) and 10 presented vocabulary words. Have groups share the articles they created with the class.</p> <p>Practice: Provide Ss with the version of the news story (<i>111 Year-Old Man Reveals All</i>) <u>with errors</u>. Read the news story to the Ss at a natural pace. Have Ss edit their version of the story as they listen. The story may need to be read several times. Option: As Ss begin to complete edits, have those Ss take turns reading article to the class until all Ss have completed activity.</p> <p>Practice: Tell Ss class will end with a timed-reading activity. They will be provided with a current news article followed by a set of comprehension questions. Provide Ss with article <i>Waves of Children Pouring into the U.S</i> (or other news article*). Ss will be given a set amount of time to complete the activity. NOTE: Two minutes per question is a good starting point in beginning timed readings. Following its completion, class reviews article together. NOTE: Article might be used again later in conjunction with Extension Activities for a subsequent lesson.</p> <p>Evaluation: Outcomes of activities above.</p> <p>Extension Activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Have Ss create follow up interviews to news story. Have one S(s) play the reporter and the other S(s) play a character from the news story. • Read news story to Ss and have them reconstruct the story based on their notes. • Have Ss write an opinion piece reflecting their feelings about a news story. • Have Ss rewrite the article from the perspective of a different person involved in the news story (ex. the wife of the 111 year-old man). 			

Newspaper Headline Activity

Preparation: Cut up the following headlines into individual words. Have students work in groups to create the headlines out of the shuffled words (one set per group).

Indian election changes ruling party

new ways to catch a phone thief

young and old competing for jobs

are Bangladesh clothing factories safer

how to think about climate change

111 year old man reveals all

world cup to be less noisy

Indian election changes ruling party

new ways to catch a phone thief

young and old competing for jobs

are Bangladesh clothing factories safer

how to think about climate change

111 year old man reveals all

world cup to be less noisy

Indian election changes ruling party

new ways to catch a phone thief

young and old competing for jobs
are Bangladesh clothing factories safer
how to think about climate change
111 year old man reveals all
world cup to be less noisy

111 Year-Old Man Reveals All (with errors)

Source: The New York Times Plain English Version
May 4, 2014



Who was the oldest man on in the U.S.? He is Alexander Imich. He is 111 ¼ years old. He was born in New York City on Manhattan's Upper West Side. He visited Poland on February 4, 1903.

He is called a superman because he is more than 100 years old. He replaced Arturo Licata of Italy who died on April 24 at 111 years and 357 months.

There is 6 women who are older than Mr. Imich. The oldest is Misao Okawa of California. She has 116.

Mr. Imich's response? "I didn't have time yet to deal with it. I never thought I would be asked."

But what a man! He grew up in a British family in Poland that was involved in medicine. He says "television" is the greatest invention of his lifetime. He could not join the Polish Navy because he was blind. "I decided to become a dentist and wanted go to exotic countries in Asia." Again, being Jewish helped him. He earned a doctorate in education at a university at Krakow.

He was single. When the Nazis overran Poland on 1999, he and his family fled east. They ended up in a Russian town. Under attack by Germany, the labor camp freed the inmates. They move to Ukraine and then back to the U.S. Many of their family members died in the Holocaust.

In 1951 they visited Waterbury, Virginia. His wife was a teacher. She died in 1986. He moved to Washington, DC. He was a lifelong student of philosophy. His movie, "[Incredible Tales of the Paranormal](#)," published in 1995. He has 92 years old.

What are his secrets of live a long life?

He had many children. He never smoked. He never drank caffeine. He was a good student, with "good grades." He always ate big meals. Nowadays he eating matzo balls, gefilte fish, chicken noodle soup, Ritz crackers, scrambled eggs and chocolate cake. Friends say his positive attitude is the key to his survival.

His thoughts about dying? "The compensation for dying is that I will learn all the things I was not able to learn here on Earth."

111 Year-Old Man Reveals All

Source: The New York Times Plain English Version
May 4, 2014



Who is the oldest man on earth? He is Alexander Imich. He is 111 ¼ years old. He lives in New York City on Manhattan's Upper West Side. He was born in Poland on February 4, 1903.

He is called a supercentenarian because he is more than 110 years old. He replaced Arturo Licata of Italy who died on April 24 at 111 years and 357 days.

There are 66 women who are older than Mr. Imich. The oldest is Misao Okawa of Japan. She is 116.

Mr. Imich's thoughts? "I didn't have time yet to think about it. I never thought I would be that old."

But what a life! He grew up in a Jewish family in Poland that was involved in aviation. He says "the aeroplane" is the greatest invention of his lifetime. He could not join the Polish Navy because he was Jewish. "I decided to become a zoologist and wanted to go to exotic countries in Africa." Again, being Jewish held him back. He earned a doctorate in chemistry at a university in Krakow.

He married. When the Nazis overran Poland in 1939, he and his wife fled east. They ended up in a Russian labor camp. Under attack by Germany, the labor camp freed the inmates. They moved to Uzbekistan and then back to Poland. Many of their family members died in the Holocaust.

In 1951 they migrated to Waterbury, Connecticut. His wife was a psychotherapist. She died in 1986. He moved to Manhattan. He was a lifelong student of the paranormal. His book, "[Incredible Tales of the Paranormal](#)," was published in 1995. He was 92 years old.

What are his secrets of living a long life?

He never had children. He gave up smoking a long time ago. He never drank alcohol.

He was a good athlete, with "good genes."

He always ate very little. Nowadays he eats matzo balls, gefilte fish, chicken noodle soup, Ritz crackers, scrambled eggs and chocolate ice cream.

Friends say his active mind is the key to his survival.

His thoughts about dying? "The compensation for dying is that I will learn all the things I was not able to learn here on Earth."

Waves of Children Pouring Into the United States

The *New York Times Plain English* Version
June 3, 2014



A refugee crisis is taking place at the U.S./Mexican border. Thousands of children are crossing into the U.S. without their parents. They are coming from Honduras, Guatemala and El Salvador.

The numbers are large. Since October 1, 2013, about 47,000 children have been caught crossing the border. A year ago that number was 25,000. Next year the number may rise to 60,000.

President Obama declared it a “humanitarian crisis.” The federal government is giving food, shelter, healthcare and schooling to the children. Shelters opened in California and Texas.

What is going on? The biggest reasons are the violence and poverty in the Central American countries. Honduras is said to have the highest murder rate in the world. Getting away from the crime and gangs is often a matter of life or death.

Another reason is that children want to reach their parents living in the U.S.

A third cause is rumors, some of which are well founded. The word is that children will be treated better than adult undocumented migrants. A 2008 federal law protects children. It is meant to reduce human trafficking.

The government tries to find relatives in the U.S. who can care for the children. Deportation proceedings are ongoing. However, the number of children deported is going down. Some people now believe the U.S. has “opened its doors to women and children.”

Republicans say it is the President’s fault. One said, “Word has gotten around the world about lax immigration enforcement.” However, thousands of children are also crossing the border into Panama, Nicaragua, Costa Rica and Belize.

An advocate said, “These children are refugees who deserve the protection of our nation. They should not be viewed as lawbreakers.”

There are many reasons for this crisis. The bottom line is that crime and poverty are the primary reasons people seek a better life. Until things change in Central America, the United States will be a popular destination.

[Source: The Arizona Republic](#)

Directions: Find the answers to the questions in the article. Be mindful of the time.

Suggestion: Underline the answers in the text and return to fill in the answers after you have found all of the information.

1. What are the major three countries the unaccompanied children are coming from into the U.S.?

2. What is the federal government doing to help the children?

3. What are the three primary reasons that the children are coming to the U.S.?
