ARCADIA
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HANDBOOK
for teachers

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I LOVE LONDON: SCENE BY SCENE

GETTING READY

We meet the two principle characters: Charles and Antonio; and we learn the diminutives that they are known by: Charlie and Tony. The idea is introduced that mistakes when speaking a foreign language shouldn't make the speaker embarrassed but that they should be accepted as part of the learning process.

ON THE PLANE

The theme of mistakes continues on the plane to London. The airline stewardess makes mistakes in Italian, and Tony doesn't understand how important the "H" sound is for effective communication. This is all portrayed with slapstick humour as trays of champagne glasses fly in all directions, and passengers finish up on the floor.

BED & BREAKFAST

Charlie arrives at the house of the English eccentric Mrs Brown who has a passion for ballroom dancing. Her instinctive reaction to the word "Italy" is simple: pasta, pizza and Pavarotti; a typical reaction from someone who has never been to Italy.

ENGLISH BREAKFAST

England is famous for having few traditional dishes. It is, however, certainly not true that you can't eat well in London, though it maybe a little expensive to do so! Tony eats the traditional English breakfast (which very few people now eat regularly) prepared by Mrs Brown. The idea of sausages, bacon and eggs for breakfast horrifies him, even if later in the play we hear that he has enjoyed it after all. When we go abroad we are sometimes reluctant to try different foods or have new experiences, yet often a little courage will be rewarded. Charlie's breakfast is just a croissant and a cup of coffee, more normal for the hectic London lifestyle.

THE BUSINESSMAN

Tony meets a traditional English businessman, a stereotypical figure who really exists even in the 21st century. In the City of London there are still men who wear a bowler hat and a red carnation. We are shown that although he might look old-fashioned, in reality he uses modern technology to help him work efficiently. This is a mirror of all of London where an old building may hide up-to-the-minute technology: “London is a thriving business centre - not a museum!”

We also encounter another pronunciation problem: the “TH” sound which, if not sounded correctly, can change the meaning of a word.

The businessman’s reaction to “Italy” is that of someone who knows the country well: Puccini, Pisa, Prosciutto.

MADAME TUSSAUD’S: MARY POPPINS

In Madame Tussaud’s museum in our play, the waxworks come alive. Mary Poppins is “Practically Perfect in Every Way” and, in her best British nanny way, tells Charlie off for not taking full advantage of his situation. He has come to Madame Tussaud’s because that’s what everyone does, but he doesn’t know why. She wants him to use his intelligence to get the most out of his trip: look, listen and learn.

MADAME TUSSAUD’S: SHERLOCK HOLMES

It is Tony who encounters Sherlock Holmes, “London’s Most Famous Detective”. Holmes’ powers of deduction are not all that they should be and Tony is quite a lot better at discovering clues. They are searching for the thief who has taken Tony’s rucksack. The actor playing Holmes goes down into the audience where he takes objects out of coats and bags of teachers and students (put there by sleight of hand!) which generates reaction and interaction in English.

THE COVENT GARDEN GALA

Tony and Charlie visit the world famous Royal Opera House where they encounter the Phantom of the Opera taken from the famous London musical about the Phantom who wants to disrupt the performances.

Act one finishes when the Phantom tells the audience to leave the theatre and he orders the curtains to close.

LONDON TOURISTS

The American and Japanese tourists who photograph everything in sight are fascinated by the audience and take photos of them. The American is fascinated by everything 'old', including a teacher! She has been shopping in Harrods and shows the audience a Royal Family style hat she's bought.

TELEPHONE BOX

Tony 'phones his mother. She has all the usual preoccupations of a distant mother: is he eating well; is he wrapped up warm. Tony surprises her with some of his responses.

TRAFALGAR SQUARE

This scene introduces us to one of London's most celebrated figures, Admiral Nelson. On top of his column we can see most of London's famous landmarks. We also appreciate the pigeon problem in big cities! Charlie is invited to the top of the column to search for Tony who has got lost.

THE NATIONAL GALLERY

Charlie looks at the paintings in the National Gallery. There is a painting of Queen Victoria with a very serious face, (she is famous for the phrase "We are not amused", which she may or may not have said). However Charlie gets her laughing.

THE TOWER OF LONDON

The scene with Henry VIII and two of his wives comically shows them with their heads under their arms. We learn that Henry was a rather vulgar king, who ate and drank too much, and used drastic measures when he didn't get his own way, as the two headless wives are all too ready to testify.

There is a simple play on words in this scene which is described fully in the language section of this booklet.

MUSICAL MATINEE

London's West End musicals are an attraction for tourists from all over the world, and here we have a sample of just a few of them:

Cabaret - two cabaret performers from the legendary musical.

Cats - we see a scruffy old cat and a sleek younger cat, taken from this world famous musical.

The Boyfriend - 1920's Oxford, with students playing tennis and drinking champagne.

Barnum - we see clowns from this musical about a famous circus.

Tony then declares, in a much better English than he used at the beginning of the play, that he's "Had a Happy Holiday" and he says "THank you" to Charlie.

I LOVE LONDON: FACT FILE

London is the capital of the United Kingdom and the mother city of the Commonwealth of Nations. It is the seat of one of the world's oldest parliamentary governments, yet it retains all the pomp and ceremony of a medieval kingdom. It is a great industrial city, an international centre of finance, and a huge port. Greater London is one of the world's largest metropolitan areas.

The visitor to London usually sees little of its great port and factories. He is more interested in its historic palaces and churches, which link the present with the past. Even the streets of London are memorable. They are well-known through English fiction and biographies of great men of the past who lived and walked on them.

London owes its rise to its location on the Thames River near its mouth on the North Sea. When the Romans occupied England in the 1st century AD there was already a village on Lud Hill, about 60 miles above the Thames's mouth.

At Lud Hill there was firm ground on which ships could unload and it was the farthest downstream point at which the river could be easily crossed. On Lud Hill the Romans built Londinium, “the City,” and ringed it with massive walls. They also built the first London Bridge and laid six roads radiating north and south from it.

Throughout the Middle Ages the City kept within the Roman wall. Only a remnant of that wall remains today, but the names of its gates survive in such streets as Newgate, Aldgate, Cripplegate, and Ludgate, as well as in the fish market of Billingsgate. Gradually the City spread west to Temple Bar, at the eastern end of the Strand.

In 1664 and 1665 the Great Plague struck the city and killed 75,000 people. The next year the Great Fire destroyed the City. London quickly recovered from the damage of both calamities. Sir Christopher Wren, genius of church architecture, rebuilt many of the City’s ancient churches. His masterpiece is the new St. Paul’s Cathedral on Ludgate Hill (the ancient Lud Hill). The dome of this great church is still one of the highest points in London.

In the 18th century London grew from 500,000 to 1 million inhabitants. In the 19th century it became the largest and wealthiest city in the world. Beautiful homes spread over the West End, the area around Westminster. The old City became a world centre of finance. Up the Thames came ships of all nations, with all kinds of cargo. Most English railways made London their terminal. Roads also radiated from it in all directions. While London owes its importance principally to commerce, it is also a great manufacturing centre, turning out clothing, foodstuffs, furniture, machinery, and miscellaneous products.

In World War II London suffered heavily from bombing. From August 1940 to May 1941, German bombers came over night after night. The heaviest attack took place on 29th December 1940, when incendiary bombs ignited London’s second Great Fire. In 1944 came the deadly V-weapons, launched from German bases in occupied territories. Many Londoners slept in subway stations. Thousands were killed. In the mile-square City, 134 acres were levelled (1.8 million m^2)

Tourism

Tourism is an important branch of the British economy. More than 17 million foreign tourists arrive annually in Great Britain. Most come to

England, though some tourists may only pass through on their way to Scotland or Wales. About two thirds of the visitors come from Western European countries and about 20 percent from North America. London is by far the most visited city.

PLACES OF INTEREST

THE TOWER OF LONDON

Just east of the City, on the Thames, stands the Tower of London. The ancient fortress is England's most famous historic monument. For centuries it served as a state prison. It is now a museum; but visitors are drawn to it chiefly by the memories it evokes of illustrious prisoners who were confined or executed here.

The Tower of London covers 13 acres (170,000m^2) and has all the parts of a medieval castle. The moat, formerly fed by the Thames, is now dry.

In the outer wall, facing the Thames, is Traitors' Gate, through which state prisoners, brought by way of the river from Westminster, were conveyed to the Tower. Executions took place both within the Tower and outside the walls on Tower Hill. Many of those executed were buried in the Tower chapel. They included Sir Thomas More; Anne Boleyn; Catherine Howard; and Lady Jane Grey and her husband, Guildford Dudley. Elizabeth I, when a princess, was a prisoner here. Here also Sir Walter Raleigh wrote a history of the world while awaiting his tragic end.

TRAFALGAR SQUARE

The square was laid out by Nash in 1820. It was completed in the 1840s when the northern terrace was built to front the newly constructed National Gallery and Nelson's Column itself was erected. The four gigantic bronze lions at the base of the column were added 25 years later.

BIG BEN

At the north end of the Houses of Parliament building rises the Clock Tower, 320 feet (96 metres) high. This is the home of the great bell called Big Ben. The bell weighs 13 tons (10.800kg) and was cast in 1858 to replace an earlier bell that cracked while being tested.

The present bell also cracked shortly after it was hung, causing a shrill note, but after the crack had been filed open and smoothed the tone became quite pure. The great bell, which rings the hours, is flanked by smaller bells that ring the quarter hours. Big Ben takes its name from Sir Benjamin Hall, who had charge of the work on the first bell. The name is also commonly applied to the tower clock. This has four faces, one on each side of the tower, with dials 23 feet (7m) in diameter.

THE NATIONAL GALLERY

The National Gallery, on Trafalgar Square, aims to cover the whole range of classical European painting. Here all the important old masters are represented, many of them in great works. Part of the collection is housed in the Tate Gallery, on the Thames, north of the Houses of Parliament.

The National Portrait Gallery adjoins the National Gallery. Here one may see how the nation's famous men and women looked. Portraits are chosen on the basis of genuine likeness rather than for artistic merit.

In 'I Love London', we see the Holbein painting of Henry VIII, a nude in front of a mirror by Spain's greatest painter Diego Velasquez, and a detail showing a group of five angels from a painting by Piero della Francesca, one of the great artists of the early Italian Renaissance. There is also one of the National Portrait Gallery's photographs of Queen Victoria.

MADAME TUSSAUD'S WAXWORK MUSEUM

Marie Tussaud (1760-1850) the wax modeller, was born in Bern, Switzerland. She first found fame in Paris modelling leaders and victims of the Revolution. Tussaud came to London where she established Madame Tussaud's waxworks in 1802. Later she added the famous Chamber of Horrors.

FICTIONAL CHARACTERS

MARY POPPINS

The author P.L. Travers (Pamela Lyndon Travers, born 1906) is a British author of children's books, born in Australia of Irish parents. Her most

famous books are ‘Mary Poppins’ and ‘Mary Poppins Comes Back’, the fantastic yet human tales about a nursemaid. Julie Andrews played the character in the Walt Disney film version in 1964, for which she won an Academy award.

SHERLOCK HOLMES

The leading character in a series of Conan Doyle’s detective stories was Sherlock Holmes, the marvellous amateur detective who always unravels the most baffling mysteries, along with his friend Doctor Watson. Arthur Conan Doyle (1859-1930), a British physician who turned to writing, thought he would be remembered for his historical novels. His fame, however, rests on his creation of the incomparable Sherlock Holmes. At one point Doyle had Holmes killed at the end of one of the stories, but so great was the public outcry that Sherlock Holmes was soon solving mysteries again.

HISTORICAL FIGURES

HORATIO NELSON

In the centre of London’s Trafalgar Square stands a column topped by a statue of Admiral Nelson (1758-1805). The square was named in honour of Lord Nelson’s victory in the battle of Trafalgar (1805). Nelson was one of England’s great naval heroes. His brilliant victories during the Napoleonic wars averted the growing threat of French naval power and saved England from invasion.

Nelson lost the sight of his right eye in 1794 in the siege of Calvi on the island of Corsica. In 1797 he lost his right arm during an assault in the Canary Islands.

As soon as Nelson had recovered, he was sent to destroy the fleet that escorted Napoleon’s invasion of Egypt. On August 1, 1798, he discovered the French ships in one of the mouths of the Nile and his victory over them made Nelson the hero of England.

In 1801 Nelson won a notable victory over the Danish fleet at Copenhagen. In the midst of the battle Nelson’s superior officer hoisted the recall signal to withdraw from action. Nelson put a telescope to his blind eye and said, “I really do not see the signal.” He then turned probable disaster into triumph.

Later Nelson was given command of the Mediterranean fleet with which he brought both the French and allied Spanish fleet to bay off Cape Trafalgar on Oct. 21, 1805. From his ship, the Victory, he flew the signal that has ever since been Britain's watchword: "England expects that every man will do his duty." Nelson's tactics shattered the enemy fleet. While the battle still raged Nelson fell mortally wounded. His flag captain, Thomas Hardy, carried him below deck. His last words were, "Now I am satisfied. Thank God, I have done my duty."

QUEEN VICTORIA

On June 22, 1897, as cheering throngs massed in the streets, cannon roared, and the bells of London rang, a carriage pulled up to the steps of St. Paul's Cathedral. The greatest empire on Earth was paying tribute to Victoria, the queen-empress, on her Diamond Jubilee.

Victoria was born at Kensington Palace in London on May 24, 1819. Her father was the fourth son of George III. Her mother was a German princess. Victoria was 18 years old when she became queen upon the death of her uncle William IV in 1837. She was crowned at Westminster Abbey on June 28, 1838.

After the untimely death of her husband, Albert, in 1861, Victoria went into seclusion. She avoided London and spent most of her time at Balmoral Castle in Scotland, at Osborne House on the Isle of Wight, and at Windsor. The "widow of Windsor" became an almost legendary figure until the last years of her reign. The longest reign in British history (64 years), it was marked with the glitter and pageantry of her Golden Jubilee in 1887 and her Diamond Jubilee in 1897.

Victoria was not a great ruler or a particularly brilliant woman. She was fortunate through most of her reign in having a succession of politically able Cabinet ministers. She happened, however, to be queen of Great Britain for most of the 19th century a century that saw more changes than any previous period in history. The queen became the living symbol of peace and prosperity. Governments rose and fell. Industry expanded beyond everyone's wildest dreams. Science, literature, and the arts found new meaning. Through all these long years of peaceful change, there was always the queen.

Victoria had lived from the dissolute days of George III to the beginning of the 20th century. She made the Crown a symbol of

“private virtue and public honour.” Victoria died on the Isle of Wight on Jan. 22, 1901, but the Victorian Age is considered to have continued until 1914, when Europe was plunged into World War I.

KING HENRY VIII

Henry VIII was the second son of Henry VII and Elizabeth of York, and was one of England’s strongest and least popular monarchs. He was born at Greenwich on June 28, 1491. Henry was the first English ruler to be educated under the influence of the Renaissance: he was a gifted scholar, linguist, composer, and musician. As a youth he was vivacious and handsome, skilled in all manner of athletic games, but in later life he became coarse and fat. When his elder brother, Arthur, died he became heir apparent. He succeeded his father on the throne in 1509, and soon thereafter he married Arthur’s young widow, Catherine of Aragon. By 1527 Henry had made up his mind to get rid of his wife. The only one of Catherine’s six children who survived infancy was a sickly girl, the Princess Mary, and it was doubtful whether a woman could succeed to the English throne. Then too, Henry had fallen in love with a lady of the court, Anne Boleyn.

When the pope (Clement VII) would not annul his marriage, Henry obtained a divorce through Thomas Cranmer, whom he had made archbishop of Canterbury, and it was soon announced that he had married Anne Boleyn.

The pope was thus defied. All ties that bound the English church to Rome were broken. Appeals to the pope’s court were forbidden, all payments to Rome were stopped, and the pope’s authority in England was abolished. In 1534 the Act of Supremacy declared Henry himself to be Supreme Head of the Church of England, and anyone who denied this title was guilty of an act of treason. Some changes were also made in the church services, the Bible was translated into English, and printed copies were placed in the churches. The monasteries throughout England were dissolved and their vast lands and goods turned over to the king.

Henry was married six times. Anne Boleyn bore the king one child, who became Elizabeth I. Henry soon tired of Anne and had her put to death. A few days later he married a third wife, Jane Seymour. She died in a little more than a year, after having given birth to the future Edward VI.

A marriage was then contracted with a German princess, Anne of Cleves, whom the king had been led to believe to be very beautiful. When he saw her he discovered that he had been tricked, and he promptly divorced this wife and beheaded Thomas Cromwell, the minister who had arranged the marriage. Henry's fifth wife, Catherine Howard, was sent to the block for misconduct. In 1543 he married his sixth wife, the tactful and pious Catherine Parr. Catherine, who survived Henry, lived to marry her fourth husband.

He died on January 28, 1547, and was buried in St. George's Chapel in Windsor Castle.

FURTHER NOTES

MUSICALS

'I Love London' contains music from several of the many musicals that have seen success in London's West End: 'Cats', 'Phantom of the Opera', 'Barnum' and 'Cabaret' are some of the musicals represented.

The musical requires the integration of story, song, and dance, but it is still the individual musical numbers that carry a production and make it memorable for audiences. Most successful musicals have at least one showstopper: a number that gets so much applause that it interrupts the show.

From the beginning, dance was an essential element in stage musicals, but the dance routines in early shows added little to the story line. They were more an interruption in the action than a part of it. Then came 'Oklahoma!' (1943), the first collaboration of Rodgers and Hammerstein, which proved to be one of the pivotal musicals. Ballet dancers trained by Agnes de Mille were part of the cast, and the numbers they did were worked into the plot. The dancers thus became part of the action, not a distraction from it.

In 1984 an unusual show opened in London: 'Starlight Express' by Andrew Lloyd Webber. Dancers were put on roller skates for one of the most effective entertainments ever presented on stage. Each skater plays a train car or an engine, and each is constantly on the move.

When the London success 'Phantom of the Opera' opened in New York City early in 1988, it had advance sales of more than 17 million

dollars. This indicated a long run, something a musical needs if it is to recover its high start-up costs. With its choruses of singers and dancers and a great variety of backstage personnel and technicians, a musical is far more expensive to produce than is a play. Besides personnel, a musical can make special demands upon the theatre where it is staged. For ‘Starlight Express’ the theatre had to be rebuilt; roller skating tracks had to be installed to ring the main floor and the balcony, along with a U-shaped track in front of the stage and a bridge-like construction on the stage itself to allow skaters to move from one level to another. ‘Phantom of the Opera’, with its simulation of a lake beneath the Paris Opera, posed similar technical difficulties.

In England musical comedy came into its own with ‘The Boy Friend’ (1956), Sandy Wilson’s spoof of 1920s musicals, and ‘Oliver!’ (1960), by Lionel Bart, adapted from Charles Dickens’ ‘Oliver Twist’. Since then, some of the best musicals have originated in London before they made their way to Broadway. ‘Cats’ has been running in London for nearly 20 years.

More recently the musical has returned triumphantly to the cinema with ‘Evita’, ‘Phantom of the Opera’, and the Oscar-laden succes of ‘Chicago’.

I LOVE LONDON: LANGUAGE

The language used throughout the play is completely naturalistic. Therefore words sometimes frowned upon by the text-books find a place here. Words such as “aren’t” for “are not” and “that’ll” for “that will” are common in everyday speech and therefore included in ‘I Love London’. Instead of saying “I’m sorry” or “pardon” when wishing to have something repeated the characters might use “what?” when talking with their contemporaries, and so on.

PRONUNCIATION

Use has been made of common mistakes in pronunciation that Italian students come up against. How many Italian visitors to London think that the English are being difficult when they say they’ve never heard of a shop called ‘Arrods! The missing “H” and the difficulty with the

"TH" sound are used in the play, to illustrate the confusion between "heat" and "eat", "thick" and "sick" and so on.

WORD PLAY

Because of the nature of English spelling and pronunciation, play on words is easy and fun, and much use is made of this by comedians and compilers of crossword puzzles. Unfortunately this is very difficult to communicate to early learners of English and double meanings and so on are usually best left out of a text for students. However I Love London uses a very simple form of word-play in the scene at the Tower of London where the word "head" is used in various ways to illustrate the multiple uses this word has. In this scene we encounter the following:

to go straight to one's head (drink) = to make one drunk

to be head-over-heels in love = to be madly and totally in love

to laugh one's head off = to laugh hysterically

to have a head start = to start in front of or before the others

head of the class = the best student

headmaster = the director of a school

head and shoulders above the rest = much better than the others

"THE ROYAL WE"

Queen Victoria's famous remark "We are not amused", uses the Royal 'we' which substitutes the plural 'we' for 'I'. As Queen Elizabeth II is one of the few people to use this antique form it was particularly amusing when Margaret Thatcher, on hearing that her daughter-in-law had given birth, announced "We are a grandmother".

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