



PINES ACADEMY
INTERNATIONAL



Interchange



English as a
Foreign
Language

Introduction

This book is designed as a discussion book in group class for level 8 students. It contains twenty articles of general topics that aim to enhance student's communication skills.

Furthermore, the questions will also help students increase their vocabulary bank and improve their sentence structure construction, so as their fluency and clarity in speaking. Inclusive are pictures to further promote discussion and comprehension of the articles.

1 ARE YOU A CARROT, AN EGG OR A COFFEE BEAN? WHICH ONE ARE YOU?



A young woman went to her mother and told her about her life and how things were so hard for her. She did not know how she was going to make it and wanted to give up. She was tired of fighting and struggling. Her mother took her to the kitchen. The mother filled three pots of water.

In the first pot, she placed carrots and in the second pot she placed eggs. The last she placed ground coffee beans. She let them sit and boil without saying a word. About twenty minutes later, she turned off the stove. She fished the carrots out placed them in a bowl. She pulled the eggs out and placed them in a bowl. She pulled the eggs out and placed them in a bowl. Then she ladled the coffee out and placed it in a bowl. Turning to her daughter, she said "Tell me what you see."

"Carrots, eggs and coffee," she replied. She brought her closer and asked her to feel the carrots. She noticed how soft they felt. She then asked her to take an egg and break it. After pulling off the shell, she observed the hard-boiled egg inside. Finally, she asked her to sip the coffee. The daughter smiled as she tasted its rich aroma. The daughter then asked, "So, what's the point, mom?"

Her mother explained that each of these objects had faced the same adversity-boiling water- but each reacted differently. The carrot went in strong, hard, and unrelenting. But after being subjected to the boiling water, it became soft and weak.

The egg had been fragile. Its thin outer shell had protected its liquid center. But after sitting through the boiling water, its insides had become hardened. However, the ground coffee beans were unique. After they were in boiling water, they had changed the water! "Which are you?" she asked her daughter. "When adversity knocks on your door, how do you respond? Are you a carrot, an egg, or a coffee bean?"

Are you a carrot that seems strong, but with pain and adversity, just wilts and become soft and lose your strength? Are you the egg that starts with a malleable heart, but changes with the heat? Do you have a fluid spirit, but after a death, a breakup, a financial hardship or some other trial, have become hardened and stiff? Does your outer shell look the same but on the inside is bitter and tough with a stiff spirit and a hardened heart?

Or are you like the coffee bean? The bean actually changes the hot water—the very circumstances that bring the pain. When the water gets hot, it releases the fragrance and flavor the bean. If you are like the bean, when things are at their worst, you get better and change the situation around you instead of letting it change you. When the hours are the darkest and trials are their greatest do you elevate to another level? How do you handle adversity?

Questions for discussion:

1. What do you think is the attitude of the young woman in the story?
2. In your opinion, what is the role of the hot water in the story?
3. Why did the coffee bean react differently?
4. Can you solve your problems without the help of other people? Why/Why not?
5. Do you think you can do unique things like the coffee bean? How?
6. If you were to become a thing, what would it be? Why?
7. If you were the writer what three things are you going to compare? Why?
8. What traits help some people, or whole societies, succeed where others fail?
9. How do people find the strength to overcome adversity?
10. When adversity knocks on your door, how do you respond? Are you a carrot, an egg or a coffee bean?