Lesson plan – An unusual reunion

You will need these two videoclips:
Christian the Lion reunion (available at this link: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tAYPD6PQi1Q)
Christian the Lion – the full story (go to YouTube and type Christian lion full story in the search box)

A free lesson plan from mikeharrison.edublogs.org
Tell the students that you are going to show them a videoclip showing a reunion between three friends who haven’t seen each other for a long time.

Ask the students to build collocations using the words **friend**, **friends** and **friendly**.

If the students find this difficult, give them the support of a word cloud such as this:

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lose
new
friend
see
good
people
face
old
person
meet
lose
make
make
friends
best

friendly
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Ask the students to tell each other about a friend they haven’t seen for a long time.

Hand out the transcript of the videoclip audio (first 3 lines only) and ask the students to read it. Go through any difficult vocabulary. (NB – I have altered the words in bold to aid understanding). You could show the transcript on the projector to aid explanation.

Play the clip without showing the video. As the students listen to the audio ask them to imagine what is happening and what the three friends are doing. (You could also ask them to think about what they look like). The students should write notes about their thoughts. (NB – make sure to pause the clip after the narrator has read the first three lines. Pause the clip at 50 seconds.)

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500 miles is a long way to see a friend who perhaps could have forgotten you. Mona and Lisa, Christian's new friends, were with him as he plodded forward showing no recognition. Christian hesitated, once familiar faces, then...

They had forgotten about all the other lions, but in that moment of feeling, acceptance, friendship was infectious. Introduction was unnecessary.
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Ask the students to share their ideas after listening to the clip. In particular, ask the students what they think the three friends look like.

Play the clip again, this time with the video as well. The students will see that Christian is actually a lion.

A free lesson plan from [mikeharrison.edublogs.org](http://mikeharrison.edublogs.org)
Ask the students if they know the story of Christian the Lion. If anyone does know the story, ask them to tell the other students what they know about it.

Dictate the following words and phrases:

1969
Harrods
cage
a local vicar
church grounds
Africa
the pride (of lions)
his wife

Ask the students to think about how these words and phrases relate to the story of Christian. Ask the students to compare their ideas. Ask the students to write sentences about the story.

Play the students the second clip and ask them to check their ideas. The subtitles should tell them the answers. Pause the clip before the end credits.

In 1969, John Rendall and Ace Berg saw a lion cub for sale in Harrods. Cramped and lonely in a small cage, they decided to bring it home. A local vicar allowed them to exercise the cub, now named Christian, in the church grounds but he very quickly became too big for their flat. The only thing they could do was to try and reintroduce him to Africa which they managed to do.

A year later they wanted to visit him but were told that he was now the head of his own pride and as such was completely wild and would not remember them. Undaunted, they went anyway. After many hours of looking for the pride, this is what happened when they finally found the wild lion..

He even introduced them to his wife!

(end credits)

Christian left the Kora Reserve in 1973. He made his new territory along the Tana river, but when the Wakamba herdsmen kept bringing their livestock to his hunting ground, he moved on. George Adamson said in his biography, "I used to count the days on which we hadn't seen Christian, but when they reached 97, I gave up recording them in my diary." Because a lion can live from 12 to 15 years in the wild, Adamson believed that Christian ended his days in the Meru National Reserve only a few miles up river.

Ask the students to imagine what happened next in the story and ask them to write a short text on it.

Play the credits to reveal the end of the story.

VARIATION

The students then write a text about a reunion, or imagine that they are looking after a wild animal like Christian and what they would do in the same situation.

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