

Headline:	Making class fun to help pupils learn English		
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Description:	Primary school pupils are probably familiar with doing writing excises and completing worksheets silently in English classes. Mr Julian victor, a form teacher of a primary 5 class, said that his pupils are now 'a lot more vocal nd comfortable with talking' in English, because they have been encouraged to speak up. Mr Julian Victor is one of eight winners of the Inspiring teacher of English Award.		

Making class fun to help pupils learn English

By SOPHIE HONG

PRIMARY-SCHOOL pupils are probably familiar with doing writing exercises and completing worksheets silently in English classes.

But one form teacher in Rivervale Primary School gets his pupils to walk around in class, talk about their work and discuss in groups, instead.

Mr Julian Victor, a form teacher of a Primary 5 class, said that his pupils are now "a lot more vocal and comfortable with talking" in English, because they have been encouraged to speak up.

Mr Victor, 39, is among eight winners of this year's Inspiring Teacher of English Award, which was given out on Tuesday.

It was presented by the Speak Good English Movement and The Straits Times, and recognises primary- and secondary-school teachers for their efforts in making English interesting in class.

HELPDESK 我的字典

Worksheets: 作业 zuò yè

Form teacher: 级任老师
jī rèn lǎo shī

Passage: 段落 duàn luò

Role-play: 角色活动
jué sè huó dòng

One way Mr Victor tries to make his classes more fun for his 44 pupils is to incorporate group activities and discussions into his lessons.

For instance, in an exercise called Stand Up, Hand Up, Pair Up, his pupils are encouraged to walk around in class to discuss a passage they

just read with a friend.

"When they are doing group work, all of them are actively involved. They are engaged for a longer period of time and it is easy to make sure that they stay on task, because you can hear what they are discussing," he said.

Such unusual teaching methods pique the curiosity of young minds and increase their interest in learning. Said one of Mr Victor's pupils, 11-year-old Sean Koh: "These classes are very different and interesting, which has helped me with my learning."

Another award-winning English teacher who also recognises the impact of fun class activities on the learning process is Madam Gladys Ng, 42.

For example, she will ask her River Valley Primary School pupils to read a comprehension passage, and role-play as characters in the text to answer questions from their classmates.

"I tell the children that there are no right or wrong answers when they are doing this exercise, so that they can understand the passage better in a non-threatening way," said Madam Ng.

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OUTSTANDING: Mr Julian Victor of Rivervale Primary School is one of eight winners of the Inspiring Teacher of English Award. (PHOTO: JAMIE KOH)