

# Integrating Development Education into the teaching of English

## Authors

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## Purpose

- The aim of the research is to investigate how DE themes can be integrated into the teaching of English at post primary level
- The project explores DE issues through literature (Fiction, Drama, Poetry) particularly texts on Leaving Cert syllabus for 2010
- The project also uses the concept of visual literacy- film and imagery- to develop understandings of cultural diversity
- This research emphasizes the central lens of critical literacy to question, analyse, and evaluate our cultural assumptions, beliefs and values

## Results

- *An exploration of Teaching Development Education in the English Classroom*: final year dissertation by Orla Duggan (2007)

**Syllabus is based on 5 fundamental ideas about language and language development**

- **Language, identity and power**
- **Language, meaning and values**
  - Language as shape
  - Critical literacy
- **Language awareness**

**The term 'language' includes verbal and visual forms of communication**

**Critical Literacy...**

- Identifying and challenging assumptions in the texts
- Recognising the centrality of context and culture
- Imagining and exploring alternatives
- Developing a reflective scepticism

**Comparative Studies**

Comparing text to understand the world through cultural context, relationships, themes or issues, genre etc

## English Pedagogy

**Junior Certificate Syllabus**  
promotes personal, social and cultural literacy

**Leaving Certificate Syllabus**  
promotes comprehending and composing in many genres to enable students to become more powerful in the world

**Sample Leaving Cert Texts include:**

- **The Poisonwood Bible**, Barbara Kingsolver
- **Life of Pi** Yann Martel
- **An Area of Darkness VS** Naipaul

**Sample Film as text:**

- Inside I'm Dancing
- The Truman Show
- Cinema Paradiso

***Fasting, Feasting* by Anita Desai**

is a portrait of an Indian family with stories of arranged marriages and bride murders told within the context of satire on consumerist society

***The Purple Hibiscus* by Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie**

tells the story of fifteen-year-old Kambili, growing up suffering abuse from her father, a religious fanatic. The sadness and violence of her domestic life is echoed in the religious conflict and political change in Nigeria

**Sample Junior Cert texts include:**

- **Across the Barricades**, Joan Lingard
- **The Psychic Edge**, Patrick Devaney
- **The Cinnamon Tree**, Aubrey Flegg
- **Things Fall Apart**, Chinua Achebe
- **Roll of Thunder Hear My Cry**, Mildred Tavor

Good things drench each fertile mind  
and in a feisty, thin-walled London dance hall  
Sugar cane is growing.

From **African Wedding Reception**, Eva Okwonga, Winner  
BBC Radio 4 Young Poetry Competition, 1994