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## Lost in the Old Medina

**Mohamed El Brahmi**  
Intermediate 1

I will never forget the time I got lost in the old medina when I was five years old.

My mother and sister were looking at clothing piled up on several long tables. After a few moments I lost interest in the clothing and wandered toward an ice cream stand. I turned to ask my mother if she would buy me an ice cream, but she wasn't there.

For a moment, I felt that I couldn't even breathe. Then I began crying and screaming as loud as possible. Within seconds, several women tried to comfort me. "Don't worry" an old man kept repeating, "Your mother will find you soon."

Looking back on this incident, I am sure that he meant well, but at the time he only frightened me because he had an untrimmed beard, hardly any

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## Fes: an interesting city

**Fatima Zahra Echlouchi**  
Intermediate 2

Fes is an interesting city in Morocco. It has grown to a population of over 1.9 million.

The city is a very popular place for tourists. It's known for culture and some wonderful museums like the University of al-Karaouine, which is the oldest continually-operating university in the world, the Andalusian Mosque and Moulay Idriss.

The best place you should go is the old medina. It's always crowded, but very exciting. You can eat Moroccan food like couscous, *bastilla*, and *tagine*. The food is inexpensive. You can also see some beautiful traditional clothes.

Fes has a Mediterranean climate, shifting from cold and rainy in the winter to dry and hot in the summer, but the best times to visit are the spring and the fall.

## My simple dream

**Yassine Rechaci**  
Intermediate 2

When I was younger, about 10 years old, I had a dream. It was a big dream which made my friends, their families and some neighbors around the flat my father rented laugh at me. My dream wasn't easy to accomplish. I had to leave school, and I had to work.

We always hear about children who dream of becoming doctors, teachers, lawyers, which depends on school and good marks. But, the case with me was different. I had to leave school to get work at that age, to save money, in order to buy a bicycle!

Are you surprised? Yes, my dream was to get a bicycle, which no one in the surrounding area could have. To get a bicycle at that time, you had to be wealthy. Your mother had to be a teacher, and your father, too, or more.

So, I started to miss classes in order to make the headmaster complain to my father. Then, I would tell my father that I no longer loved school so he would give me the choice to work or to study. Of course, I would choose to work. Then, my dream would become real.

One day, I was going to school. It was raining, so I was moving slowly, to get sick, so I could stay home for at least one week. In my path, I saw a group of tourists taking a break. They were speaking a strange language, but what grabbed my attention was the bicycle on the roof of their car. I went closer and gazed at it.

A woman came close to me. She was beautiful. She asked some questions, but in vain. I wasn't able to understand her words. Then, she noticed that I was looking at the bicycle. She grabbed my hand and took me to the car, pulled the bicycle off the

My simple dream  
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## A book review:

# The 3 Mistakes of My Life

**Oumaima Loukili**  
Advanced 2

In a few days, anyone can finish reading an exciting book. For me, that book was *The 3 Mistakes of My Life* by Indian author Chetan Bhagat.

It is an incredible story of Govind, a young Indian guy who dreams of being a businessman in Ahmedabad, a city in India that is considered small when compared to Delhi or Mumbai.

He has two best friends, Ish, the cricket lover, and Omi, the stupid one. The three young men have been gathered by a strong friendship since primary school and a small business guided by Govind. This small business, which is a tiny sports store, makes the tale rich in adventures, enthusiasm and sorrow to these three musketeers.

According to the title, the hero made three mistakes, but when I read the novel I found that they are not all real mistakes. In my small opinion, they were just a human's inability to control his life and make it one hundred percent as he wanted it to be.

The first mistake made by Govind is that he paid too much money to open a new store in a fancy mall. Unfortunately, the mall collapsed in an earthquake. The second mistake was falling in love with Ish's sister, Vidhya, since he used to tutor her in math. The third one I will preserve to urge you to read this wonderful story full of funny moments, adventurous ones and sadness.

You will never regret discovering such a beautiful world hidden in this book, especially when you know that it is based on a true story. The beginning is launched by Govind's suicide and the whole story is composed as a flashback by the narrator.

**ALC Book Club** meets on Saturdays at 1 pm in Room 1. Join to read and discuss English fiction and non-fiction.

Introducing a recurrent *Student Voice* feature.  
ALC and ALIF teachers (and staff) answer questions about education, language and life.

## An interview with: Si Omar Zejli

**Student Voice:** *How long have you been a teacher at ALC?*

**Si Omar Zejli:** Since June 1975.

**SV:** *How long have you been a teacher in life?*

**OZ:** Since October 1972.

**SV:** *Have you ever worked abroad?*

**OZ:** Never.

**SV:** *Did you study at ALC?*

**OZ:** I studied at ALC in 1962.

**SV:** *Do you teach ALC students or ALIF students?*

**OZ:** I teach ALC students.

**SV:** *How is teaching at ALC different than teaching at other schools?*

**OZ:** Teaching at ALC is different from other schools in many ways:

the textbook is different. It's the most commonly used in the world. Our students are motivated. Class size, equipment used, teaching methods used...

**SV:** *What qualities do good students have?*

**OZ:** One can write a book on this. Let's mention a few qualities, though. Discipline is a very important ability a good student should possess. A good student is one that can understand concepts rather than memorize them. There are so many other qualities, of course, like attitude...

**SV:** *What qualities do good teachers have?*

**OZ:** I cannot be exhaustive here either. A good teacher is prepared and organized. He or she should have clear objectives and set high expectations for all his students. A good teacher should be a master of his subject matter.

**SV:** *If you weren't a teacher, what would you be doing?*

**OZ:** I never thought of doing anything else.

**SV:** *What's your favorite word in the English language?*

**OZ:** Development.

**SV:** *What's your least favorite word in the English language?*

**OZ:** Procrastination.

**SV:** *What word do you say too much?*

**OZ:** You should ask my students.

**SV:** *Who is your favorite writer?*

**OZ:** Nathaniel Hawthorne and F. Scott Fitzgerald.

**SV:** *What is your motto?*

**OZ:** Hard work pays off.



c/o Si Omar Zejli

Check out next month's *Student Voice* for another teacher interview.

Want to be part of the conversation?  
Who would you like to see interviewed next?  
What would you like us to ask your teachers?

Write to [alcstudentvoice@gmail.com](mailto:alcstudentvoice@gmail.com) to find your Voice.

## New vision

**Kaoutar Oubdil**  
Beginning 5

I wake up after a long sleeping night,  
I look at the mirror,  
It was really a gloomy past,  
But now I feel better,  
I clean my mind and my heart.

Forever,  
I will celebrate nature,  
I will be the blue sky,  
The white river.  
I will be an innocent child,  
A beautiful flower.  
I will just smile,  
No sadness no cry.

## A methodology for poetry analysis

**Ahmed Bennani**  
Advanced 6

Usually most poems tell us about a poet's understanding of an experience, so the beginning will be different than the end. The change may be in feelings, language (slang to formal), or connotation (positive to negative). Explain how these shifts convey the poem's message.

Identify the theme (the central idea) of the poem. How does the theme convey the poem's message? Look at the title again. Do you now have a different interpretation of the title?

Poetic devices are tools of the poet. Try to identify different poetic devices and how they convey the poem's message.

- **simile** – comparison using “like” or “as”
- **metaphor** – a direct comparison
- **personification** – giving human qualities to nonhuman thing
- **tone** – what emotion does the speaker use as he talks
- **point of view** – who is the telling the poem
- **imagery** – creating pictures with words
- **alliteration** – repeating the same letter
- **paradox** – two opposite ideas that make it seem impossible

Now, begin writing your analysis. Start with the introductory paragraph. It should contain the title, the author, and an explanation of the writer's position as well as the significance of the title. Include a brief overall statement of the meaning of the poem. This will guide you into the body of the analysis.

In the body of the analysis, discuss how the poem was written, which poetic devices were used, the tone, the poet's attitude, and the shift of the poem from the beginning to the poet's ultimate understanding of the experience in the end. Add your interpretation of the poem.

Integrate the research you have done on your author into your poetry analysis. Explain how the author's history and culture have influenced the poem. Second, list two important experiences that influenced the author. Last, list two conditions in the author's country that influenced his or her life (poverty, political unrest, war, lack of opportunities, or social constraints, especially for women).

## Water...me!

**Amina Harchi**  
Intermediate 6

I wish I could be water,  
Nothing could stop me from running,  
not even the highest border  
could stop me from leaving,  
as water I could be strong enough  
to survive in this cruel world.

I have just to run and to laugh,  
I am never going to feel bored,  
I will be free and happy  
all my life long!

I am never going to need a partner  
to feel complete or to be strong.

Water is just the magic formula  
for immortality and hope,  
and if something tries to stop it,  
it just has to change its shape.

Don't you think it's magic  
to be able to escape  
without hurting someone,  
without breaking a law?  
Anytime, without packing,  
you are free to go  
Nobody blames you for your absence,  
They just pray to see you again,  
Whatever happens  
you look pure and nice.  
Whatever they pour within you,  
you are still calm and blessed.

I wish I could be water,  
I don't need to remind you  
what are my secrets and reasons.  
You have just to look around you.

## Yesterday

**Assia Jabouri**  
Advanced 1

Yesterday  
was the time of joy.  
The time of glories.  
There was no pain or worries,  
because you were lighting my way.  
But today,  
Today is nothing.  
So, as long as you are gone,  
and never coming back again.

So all what I have today:  
bittersweet memories  
from yesterday.  
The pain  
was tearing me apart.  
My breath was taken away  
when I knew that  
I wouldn't see you again.  
Mother, I am lost without you.  
I lost my mind and my way.  
This is all that I can say.

## Unwise

**Maha El Youmni**  
Advanced 1

My heart is beating  
My head is aching  
All hope is fading  
Memories erasing

I looked at his eyes  
Bright, brown, full of lies  
He glanced down, as in disguise,  
Covered his face full of cries, unwise.

# A monstrous dream

**Maha Bouchbouch**  
Juniors 9 Advanced

I have always chosen to hang out with my cousin, but when we were really little, something really bad happened.

While we were walking the dogs, we heard a strange voice coming out of the big forest next to my uncle's house. My cousin Sarah wasn't scared at all. She thought it was the sound of the wind, but I was sure that it wasn't.

We got back home, ate our dinner and then we went to sleep. At midnight, I woke up to go and get a drink of water.

Suddenly, I saw someone's shadow. I stalked him. After a few seconds, the shadow stopped by the garage door. I was afraid, but I didn't give up. I walked in, but I couldn't see the shadow anymore so I returned to the door to go to bed.

Oh no! The door was locked! I screamed, but no one heard me. It was like I had been transported to another galaxy. Everything was black.

Suddenly, something hit me really hard on the back of the head. When I woke up, I found that I had been kidnapped by some horrible monsters. They took all of my hair and they were preparing to eat me!

Luckily, just then, my mom came in to wake me up! Thank God it was only a dream!

## Lost in the medina

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teeth and smelled strongly of tobacco.

Suddenly, my mother pushed through the crowd and I stopped crying. I will never forget the relief I felt when her strong arms pulled me to her, even though she said, "Why didn't you stay with us?! Don't do that again!"

## My simple dream

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roof, and asked, "Do you like it?" I didn't understand. I touched the bicycle and cried a lot. In fact, I was crying and smiling.

# freezes word search

English is full of paired words. These pairs have fixed meaning and sequence.  
Complete the binomials and find the missing words in the puzzle.

T	B	A	L	T	I	O	Z	I	U	P	L	Y	W
F	P	U	W	A	R	H	E	A	V	E	N	R	A
K	C	O	R	A	D	C	M	E	V	Y	W	E	R
G	L	L	N	Q	E	I	K	F	D	H	H	V	I
D	X	G	Y	D	B	O	E	R	G	H	O	E	J
J	E	L	I	R	M	E	O	S	V	E	P	T	Z
S	N	V	E	S	Z	R	P	N	H	U	L	G	I
C	I	A	Y	E	W	O	E	U	S	F	P	G	X
D	D	G	F	V	B	F	N	H	D	X	V	C	F
E	T	H	O	U	C	E	F	N	Q	O	K	T	W
R	A	O	T	O	V	B	T	W	W	M	O	M	L
T	E	Y	M	F	D	B	N	P	H	V	S	R	E
H	Z	D	S	H	P	D	G	A	I	T	G	Q	W
E	T	C	N	V	G	M	A	S	T	O	L	F	S
U	X	A	T	U	G	I	D	Q	E	R	A	R	A
G	I	V	E	V	H	T	H	G	I	N	F	T	G
L	L	R	F	D	J	T	L	N	T	A	X	A	C
D	J	K	E	O	U	K	P	C	U	X	S	C	R

## Can you find these "twin" words in the puzzle?

- |                       |                              |
|-----------------------|------------------------------|
| 1. apples and _____   | 14. high and _____           |
| 2. an arm and a _____ | 15. in and _____             |
| 3. _____ and after    | 16. _____ and gentlemen      |
| 4. black and _____    | 17. _____ and pop            |
| 5. _____ and butter   | 18. near and _____           |
| 6. day and _____      | 19. _____ and shut           |
| 7. _____ and taxes    | 20. _____ and pull           |
| 8. _____ and conquer  | 21. a _____ and a hard place |
| 9. each and _____     | 22. _____ and mirrors        |
| 10. _____ and jetsam  | 23. _____ and lightning      |
| 11. _____ and take    | 24. _____ and peace          |
| 12. _____ and evil    | 25. young and _____          |
| 13. _____ and earth   |                              |

Then the woman put me on it, and what I could understand from her gestures was that the bicycle was for her son, who was a doctor at that time. She touched my back and pushed me. I started moving perfectly, and when I turned back to see the woman, she was saying, "Bye-bye! Now it's yours." Yes, like that, "N-o-w I-t-'s y-o-u-r-s."

Then, I realized that the woman saved my future. She was telling me, "Go and finish school." That is what I understood.

## freezes word search answers

- |            |             |           |
|------------|-------------|-----------|
| 1. oranges | 2. leg      | 3. before |
| 4. white   | 5. bread    | 6. night  |
| 7. death   | 8. divide   | 9. every  |
| 10. jetsam | 11. give    | 12. good  |
| 13. heaven | 14. low     | 15. out   |
| 16. ladies | 17. mom     | 18. far   |
| 19. open   | 20. push    | 21. rock  |
| 22. smoke  | 23. thunder | 24. war   |
| 25. old    |             |           |