

FLUENCY THROUGH TPR STORYTELLING (8TH AND LATEST EDITION)

Author: Blaine Ray & Contee Seely

Literature review by Karen Hu, Professional Expert, Future Learning Solutions – Centre for Languages

Fluency through TPR Storytelling (TPRs) is a significant book, that guides teachers of all levels through a practical way of teaching foreign languages. The authors build on the ideas of James Asher's TPR (total physical response) method which promotes the method of teaching a foreign language through actions. After recognising some of the barriers TPR poses in class, such as students losing interest after a while, Blaine Ray gradually developed this new method - TPRs.

TPRs is a fun and engaging way to teach language. It focuses on fluency development and makes input that is comprehensible to students. The book gives detailed practical instructions on pedagogy itself, such as how to provide 100% comprehensible input, how to introduce new vocabulary, how to keep classes interesting and how to teach grammar in context. It also provides detailed guidance on general classroom management skills and techniques in order to teach TPRs effectively. It differs sharply from the traditional classroom methodologies which rely on practice grammar rules and memorising long lists of vocabulary. Since TPRs is focused on the high-frequency words and phrases, it provides students with a great amount to formulaic expressions and the storytelling itself creates repetition of the target language (TL) in a context. Therefore students will have the opportunity to understand and speak the new language on a practical, day to day level.

Despite the method being very appealing, TPRs requires some real professional development, since the implementation is not straightforward. Getting all the TPRs strategies and techniques working perfectly in your classroom will be a complex and challenging process. Furthermore, the nature of the method requires the teacher to be the centre of the class: to be an actor on the stage, who is able to stimulate students' interest and react spontaneously on the spot. Obviously, it will not be the ideal method for every language teacher. Nonetheless, I believe this is an invaluable book for all language teachers who are seeking some more teaching inspiration, and who are willing to take risks and challenge themselves.

TPRs sheds light on some problematic teaching issues that beginner teachers face every day. It provides some guidance and support to new teachers who do not have a linguistic

background or don't know how to teach a foreign language effectively. For experienced language teachers, the book adds new 'tools' into their 'toolbox', which no doubt will enhance the effectiveness of their teaching and increase student engagement in the classroom.

Blaine and his team also commercially produce TPRs teaching resources for teachers.

To purchase the book: <https://www.tprsbooks.com/shop/fluency-through-tpr-storytelling-8th-edition/>

To purchase the curriculum:

Spanish curricula: [TPRS books - Spanish](#)

French curricula: [TPRS books - French](#)

German curricula: [TPRS books - German](#)