

## 高一第二学期 Unit 4 Sports

## Reading A Open Love Letter to Basketball (第一课时)

## 一、教材分析

本文的体裁是一封信，是一代传奇——著名篮球明星乔丹在其最后一次退役时所作（运动生涯中他一共退役了三次）。本文通过拟人手法，回顾了他的篮球一生——篮球是让他魂系梦绕的情人，从与篮球的初识，对篮球产生兴趣，被篮球所抛弃，努力训练重新得到篮球的爱，和篮球相爱相知，直到选择退役，每一笔都渗透了他的热爱以及恋恋不舍之情。本文句子结构简单，生词量小，但有部分词汇因牵涉到西方文化，需要教师通过课堂引导帮助学生理解；本文虽然语言简单，但是通过拟人手法和排比重复，强有力地展现了乔丹的情感。本文结构清晰，每一段都描述了乔丹和篮球之间不断变化的牵绊和越发深厚的情感。通过学习本文，学生可以体会到一代传奇乔丹对篮球运动的挚爱和其表现出的执着，不服输和勇于突破自我的运动员精神。

## 二、教学设计

## 【Teaching Aims】

By the end of the period, students are expected to:

- understand the development of Jordan's relationship with basketball through predicting the content, skimming, scanning, studying the rhetorical devices and summarizing;
- grasp the basic structure of a personal letter (greeting, opening remarks, body, closing remarks, complimentary close and signature);
- understand the writing purpose and targeted reader(s) of a letter;
- critically think about the role of sports in one's life.

## 【Teaching Procedures】

## Pre-reading

Ss' activities: 1. Do a survey and discuss the pros and cons as well as the meaning of sports.

2. Solve a riddle about Jordan with the hints given by the teacher.

Purposes: 1. To prepare the students for the topic.

2. To give students a clearer idea of how great Jordan is as a basketball player and lead

Guided questions:

1. Who does the riddle refer to?
2. Have a guess: What contributes to Jordan's legend?

## While-reading

## Step 1

Ss' activities:

1. Skim the title. Then find out the Jordan's feelings about basketball.
2. Skim the letter and work out its structure (greeting, opening remarks, body, closing remarks, complimentary close and signature).
3. Skim the passage, figure out the main idea for each part and put the stages of the development of Jordan's relationship with basketball into the timeline.

Purpose: To help the students quickly figure out what to read and the structure of the passage.

Guided questions:

1. Who did Jordan write to?
2. What's Jordan's overall feeling about basketball?
3. What are the major components of a letter?
4. Did Jordan love basketball at the very beginning? How can you tell?
5. Did basketball love Jordan at the very beginning? How do you know that?
6. How did he win basketball's heart? Is there any quotation from the letter?
7. How do you understand "we danced" (lines 34-35)?
8. Why did Jordan write this letter?

Step 2

Ss' activities: 1. Find the repetitions in the letter.  
2. Read paras 8-9 aloud and appreciate the effect of repetition.  
3. Appreciate the effect of personification.

Purpose: To help students appreciate the power of repetition and personification in expressing one's emotion.

Guided questions:

1. What is the effect of repetition in the letter?
2. What did Jordan compare basketball with? What is the effect of personification?

Step 3

Ss' activities: Scan the whole letter again. Define Jordan's love for basketball in one's own words.

Purpose: To help the students have a further understanding of the text and get to know the sporting spirits Jordan manifested.

Guided questions:

1. How did Jordan show his love for basketball? Can you summarize it in one or several words?  
→ *passion/perseverance/hard work/talent/desire to win/gratitude...*
2. What makes Jordan a legend?

### Post-reading

Step 4

Ss' activities: 1. Work in groups to discuss and write a letter to Jordan expressing your wish for his back or retirement for good from the perspective of his fans or family members.  
2. Present the letter to the whole class.

Purpose: To foster students' critical thinking about the pros and cons sports can bring and the role of a sport in one's life as a whole.

Guided question:

If you were his fan, would you wish for his back again given that this would be the third time he declared a retirement? Or if you were his family member, would you wish for the same? Why?

### 【Assignments】

1. Retell the letter according to the timeline.
2. Polish the letter that you have written in class.