

**IN THIS ISSUE**  
Page 2

**STUDENTS' LEARNING THROUGH INQUIRING**  
Page 3

**FROM THE CLASSROOM**  
Page 4

**FOR THE CLASSROOM**  
Page 5

**LEARNING ON THE GO**  
Page 6

# LEARNING BY INQUIRING

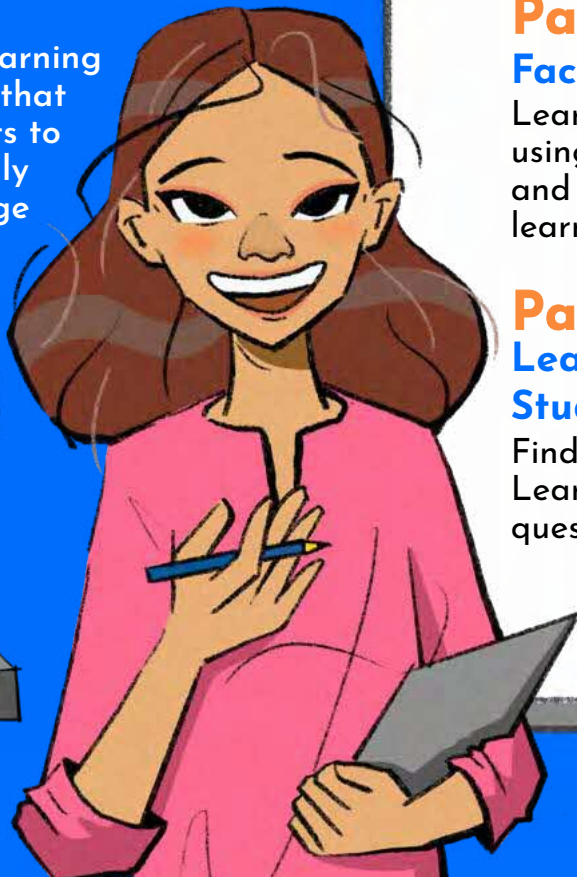


# In This Issue

We look at how teachers can engage students in learning by inquiring.

Read on to find out more about:

- how learning by inquiring promotes critical thinking and develops communication skills
- facilitating learning by inquiring
- designing learning experiences that help students to think critically and challenge their own thinking



# Highlights

## Page 3

### Promoting Critical Thinking and Developing Communication Skills through Inquiry

Why is it important for students to learn by inquiring? Find out how a HOD/EL created opportunities for his students to do so in the context of real-world issues.

## Page 4

### Facilitating Learning by Inquiring

Learn how teachers supported students in using exploratory talk, dialogic conversations and metacognitive strategies to monitor learning.

## Page 5

### Learning by Inquiring through Students' Questions

Find out how these resources in the Student Learning Space (SLS) can help students ask questions that promote learning by inquiring.



Want to know more about how to actively engage your students in learning by inquiring? Join these courses at **ELIS!**

- [Learning by Inquiring in the Primary English Language Classroom](#)
- [Learning by Inquiring in the Secondary English Language Classroom](#)



Click [HERE](#) to find out what the Singapore Teaching Practice (STP) says about using questions to facilitate learning and inquiry in the 21st century classroom.



# Promoting Critical Thinking and Developing Communication Skills Through Inquiry

Mr Yok Joon Meng (HOD/EL) from Yu Neng Primary School led his students to inquire into a real-world issue to promote critical thinking and develop communication skills. He started the class discussion with a question:

“Through exploratory talk, students build on or challenge one another’s ideas constructively and respectfully.”

“Do children all over the world have equal access to education?”

Students interacted with texts at a deeper level when Joon Meng engaged them in generative conversations by using rich texts, questions and exploratory talk.

Click [HERE](#) to view how Joon Meng engaged his students in learning by inquiring.



Learning by inquiring can be supported by:

## Rich Texts

The use of rich texts offers opportunities for students to explore real-world issues. They learn to consider alternative points of view as well as to make text-to-self, text-to-text and text-to-world connections.

## Questioning

The teacher poses questions to guide students to make predictions and inferences, and to facilitate discussion.

## Exploratory Talk

Through exploratory talk, students collaborate to gather and synthesise ideas, build on one another’s ideas and generate new ideas. This promotes active knowledge construction.

*“When students are involved in inquiry, they learn first-hand as they co-construct and use language purposefully to explore thematic ideas, language features and multiple perspectives. Such an approach foregrounds the development of oral communication skills, mutual respect, exploratory talk, peer engagement and constructive feedback.” (ELS 2020, p. 17)*



Mouse over the screen to read the teachers' reflections

# From the Classroom

To facilitate learning by inquiring, teachers can design learning experiences that guide students to engage in the following: exploratory talk, dialogic conversations and the use of metacognitive learner strategies to monitor their own learning.

Learn how teachers have used different ways to facilitate learning by inquiring in these presentations.

To find out more about the Professional Learning Programmes and courses that ELIS offers, click [HERE](#).





# For the Classroom

In learning by inquiring, asking questions is important.

Questions can help students evaluate information, generate ideas and communicate effectively.



How do you design learning experiences that help your students to think critically and challenge their own thinking?

Click on these SLS resources below to explore and adapt them for your use.

## Evaluating the Soundness and Objectivity of Information When Reading

In this SLS lesson, students learn to ask questions that evaluate the soundness and objectivity of information and draw conclusions about its accuracy, reliability and relevance.



## Making Text-to-Self Connections as We Read

Asking questions is one of the hallmarks of learning by inquiring. This SLS lesson teaches students to ask questions when reading to make text-to-self connections.



## Framing Questions Using Modals to Clarify When Speaking

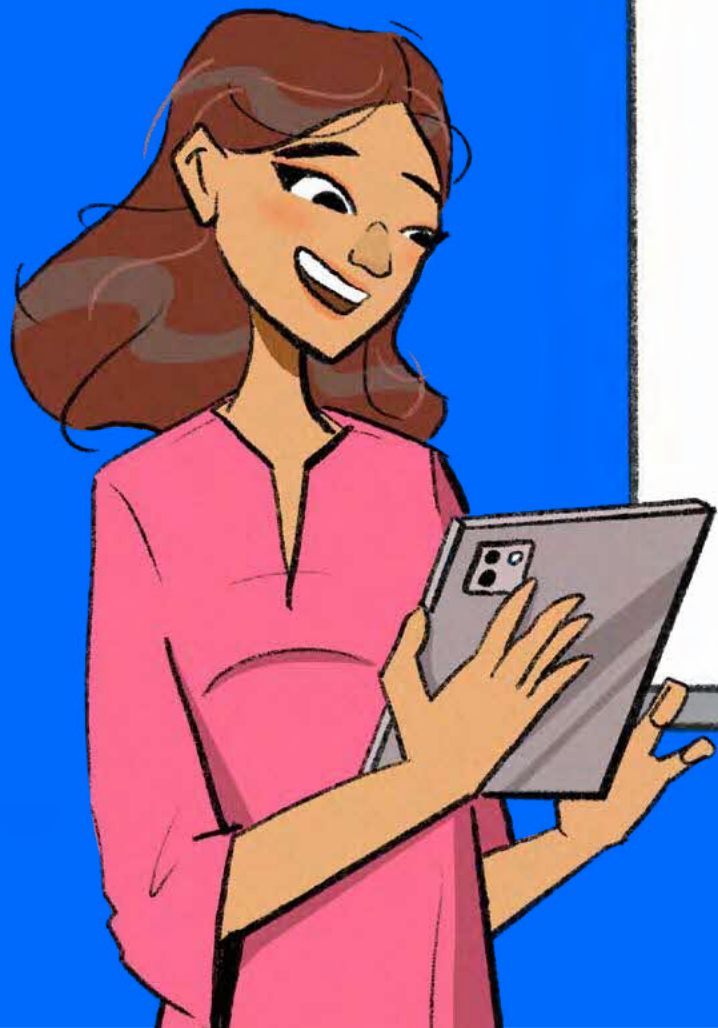
To become empathetic communicators, students need to be able to communicate sensitively. In this SLS lesson, students learn how to frame questions using modals to clarify, understand and participate respectfully in discussions.



# Learning on the Go

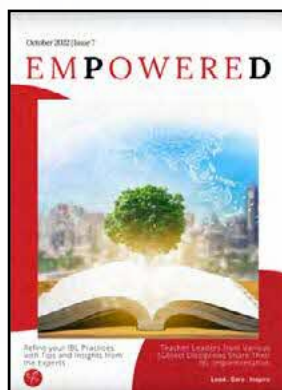
Want to find out more about learning by inquiring?

Check out these learning resources.



## Read more about Inquiry-Based Learning in Issue 7 of emPowerED.

Read pages 8 to 10 to explore how Mdm Ravathi Velayuthan (LT/EL) enacted learning by inquiring in her EL classroom.



## Supporting Inquiry-Based Learning in the English Language Classroom: What, Why and How

Watch this video to find out:

- what Inquiry-Based Learning (IBL) in the EL classroom is;
- why IBL is important in the EL classroom; and
- how to support IBL in EL teaching, learning and assessment.



To view more ELIS resources, click [HERE](#).

We'd love to connect with you!  
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