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Social Studies/Current Events

Subject Afghanistan and Human Rights

Maclean's Article: "Harsh new Afghan law linked to Iran", p. 29

Learning Outcomes

- To learn about the controversial law passed in Afghanistan which contravenes human rights
- To consider why this law has created such a backlash
- To examine the response of the Canadian government to this law and the reasons for it
- To analyze a statement on the political situation in Afghanistan today

Article Summary

This week's selected article is about the controversial law recently passed in Afghanistan which contravenes Shia Afghan women's human rights. The Shia Personal Status Law obliges a wife to "fulfill the sexual desires of her husband," prevents her from inheriting her husband's wealth, and limits when she can leave the house. This law has been criticized by many Western countries and by groups within Afghanistan, for imposing Taliban-style restrictions on women. Because of the vocal condemnation of the law, the government of Afghanistan has ordered a review of it.

The article focuses on the opinions of Hossain Ali Ramoz, executive director of Afghanistan's Independent Human Rights Commission, who believes that the law is mainly the doing of ultra-conservative Shia clerics with ties to Iran who hold powerful positions in Parliament. The law, in his opinion, has little support among most Shia Afghans.

Background

- Earlier this month Afghanistan's president Hamid Karzai signed a law—the Shia Personal Status Law—that some say legalizes a husband's rape of his wife and prevents her from leaving the home without his approval. The law set off an enormous international controversy and Karzai has since placed it under review, thus delaying its implementation.
- The law applies only to the Shia population in Afghanistan which is about 20% of the country's total population. Many members of the Afghan parliament are upset about the law which appears to contravene the Afghan constitution that says men and women are equal before the law.
- Canadians responded quickly to the news and Prime Minister Stephen Harper said he was "deeply troubled" by the law. *The Toronto Star* editorialized by saying, "Karzai needs to hear a strong, unified message: rescind this odious law before the world rescinds its goodwill and support."
- One of the reasons for the sternness of the Canadian response is due to the fact Canada has more than 2,000 troops fighting against the Taliban in Afghanistan, and over 100 Canadian soldiers have lost their lives in that war. Part of the rationale behind the Canadian commitment in Afghanistan is to bring democracy and rights to women in that country. Under the Taliban regime, women and girls were denied basic rights, such as the right to attend school or leave home unaccompanied by a male. Today, many girls attend school (despite the violence inflicted on them and the schools by Taliban supporters) and many women own businesses. In view of this, this law is seen a step backwards by many people.
- Several hundred women protested against the law in Kabul on April 15. This protest is seen as a brave and encouraging sign—the women faced insults and stones being thrown at them by men who support the law. In some cases, women who wanted to attend the protest were forbidden to go by their husbands or denied transportation. The review of the law is expected to take two to three months but it may well be overshadowed by looming elections in Afghanistan.

Glossary of Terms and Concepts

championed: supported; fought for a cause

drafted: prepared a document

clerics: religious officials

Shia: The larger of the two groups of Islam, the other being Sunni. The Shias supported the claims of Ali and his line to become the leader of the Muslim community, and on this issue they are divided from the Sunnis in the great schism within Islam.

obliges: forces

Taliban: A fundamentalist Islamic militia; in 1995 the Taliban militia took over Afghanistan and in 1996 set up an Islamic government, enforcing a strict Muslim code of behavior.

uproar: outcry; much noise

Hazara: Persian-speaking people residing in the central region of Afghanistan and northwestern Pakistan. The Hazara are predominantly Shia Muslims and are the third

largest ethnic group in Afghanistan, composing 19% of the population.

moderate: not too extreme; less intense

disproportionately: out of proportion; not accurate

mullah: Muslim religious scholar and teacher

persecuted: harassed, punished, or put to death for adherence to a particular religion or political movement

massacred: killed masses of people

jihadi: related to the fight in defence for Islam

constituents: citizens represented in a government by officials for whom they voted

accountable: when individuals are held responsible for their actions

transparent: able to be seen through with clarity; free of deceit

Comprehension

- 1) What is the name of the law recently passed in Afghanistan that has stirred so much controversy within Afghanistan and among Western countries?
- 2) According to Hossain Ali Ramoz, executive director of Afghanistan's Independent Human Rights Commission, who drafted this law?
- 3) What does this law say?
- 4) Does Ramoz believe this law is supported by most Afghan Shias?
- 5) What is the current status of this law?
- 6)
 - a) To what ethnic group do Afghanistan's Shias belong?
 - b) How religiously conservative is this group?
 - c) How can Shia women who belong to this group dress in public?
- 7) How did the Taliban treat Afghan Shias?
- 8)
 - a) What did Shia clerics do when Taliban was in power?
 - b) What did they do when the Taliban was overthrown? What positions do they occupy today in Afghanistan?

Critical Thinking: Discussion Questions

- 1) Why do you think there has been such a strong reaction to the Shia Personal Status Law? What do you predict will eventually happen to this law?
- 2) Do you think the international community, including Canada, has the right to press for changes to this law considering that Afghanistan is a sovereign country and that the law was passed by its elected parliament?
- 3) Some have suggested that Canada should pull out its troops from Afghanistan because of this. Do you agree?

- 4) After reading this article, what role do you think does Iran seem to play in this issue?
- 5) Looking at the issue of Afghanistan in a broad way, do you think it is possible for members of society with such strong views stemming from religious convictions to co-exist?

Statement Analysis

“We have a very conservative and very jihadi parliament that in a sense disagrees with human rights and democracy. In Afghanistan, unfortunately, the relationship between MPs and their constituents is not as accountable and transparent as in the West.”

What does Hossain Ali Ramoz, executive director of Afghanistan’s Independent Human Rights Commission, mean by this statement? What does it suggest about the political situation in Afghanistan today? In your response also consider what Ramoz’s position is and how that may affect his point of view.

Writing To A Member of Parliament

After reading the article and considering some of the question in the Discussion activity, write a letter to your member of parliament expressing your point of view on the issue.

As an alternative idea, you could write your letter to the editor of a magazine or newspaper.

A good letter is about 200-250 words long, gets to your point quickly and makes specific references to the issue at hand. You might even consider quoting from the article in your letter to an MP.

Further Research

Canadian troops are currently engaged in Afghanistan, so the Shia Personal Status Law has been of special interest to Canadians and the Canadian government. Conduct some research from a news source to find out how Canadians and the Canadian government, in particular, have reacted to this issue. Make some point-form notes and report back to class with your findings.

English/Media

Subject The “Mash-Up” Genre:

Jane Austen’s World And The World of Vampires Maclean’s Article: “Mr. Darcy, Miss Bennet and zombies,” p. 66

Learning Outcomes

- To learn about a classic English novel *Pride and Prejudice* and its author Jane Austen
- To discuss the relative merits of studying works of literature from the past
- To analyse the concept/genre of “mash-up” works and the appeal of such works to today’s audience
- To practise writing a parody or a “mash-up”

Article Summary

This week’s selected article is a review of yet another adaptation of the classic novel, *Pride and Prejudice*. This new adaptation, however, is quite unusual in that it combines elements of the classic Jane Austen’s book with George Romero’s equally classic 1968 zombie film, *Night of the Living Dead*. The writer of the new book and his editor wanted to write something in what has become known as the “mash-up” genre. They believe that Austen’s book is a good fit to mix with the horror genre because of “the viciously funny mean streak” in the author “once thought meek and mild.” The new book retains much of Austen book’s plot, characters and text, which seems to appeal to the Austenites—the ever growing audience of female fans of Austen’s work. The writer of the book hopes that the “addition of zombies, ninjas and vomit will bring more male readers to the Austenverse audience.”

The reviewer, Brian Bethune, seems to be impressed with the way the writer of *Pride and Prejudice and Zombies* blends two such opposing genres together. Bethune praises the writer’s respect for, and mimicry of, Austen’s style and how he made her world seamlessly fits with that of the strange and ghoulish world of vampires.

Glossary of Terms and Concepts

zombie: a dead body that has been brought back to life by a supernatural force
notion: idea
good fortune: wealth
mash-up: something created out of mixing two different, even competing, things
peculiar: curious; odd
absurdist: writing that centers on the behavior of absurd (irrational, illogical) characters, situations or subjects
adapted: remade in a new form
rural: living in or characteristic of farming or country life
Austen-esque: like Jane Austen would have written or conceived it
Austen-era England: circa 1795-1830; an era when social life was prominent and the right social manners, connections, good marriages and wealth were very important
schlocky: cheap; tacky

genre: a kind of literary or artistic work featuring specific characteristics
Austenites: fans of Jane Austen’s books
augur: predict or indicate for the future
succinctly: to the point
streak: a distinctive characteristic
meek: humble in spirit or manner; gentle
mimicry: the act of mimicking; to imitate or copy something
seamless: smooth; consistent
imperious: arrogant; disdainful
mien: bearing; dignified manner or conduct
unmentionables: things too horrid or embarrassing to say out loud
hallowed: sacred; worshipped
relish: enthusiastic enjoyment
quaint: strange but in an interesting or pleasing way
immortal: living forever
coining: making; forming

Comprehension

- Who is the author of *Pride and Prejudice and Zombies*?
 - What two classics does this new book “mash up?”
- How many screen adaptations have been made of Jane Austen’s *Pride and Prejudice*?
 - What kind of audience do these adaptations cater to?
 - What does the writer of *Pride and Prejudice and Zombies* think will attract male readers to his adaptation of Jane Austen’s book?
- What has been the reaction to the book so far? Why?
- What makes Austen’s novels a right fit to mix with the more violent, mean genres such as horror, according to the writer of the article?
- According to the writer of *Pride and Prejudice and Zombies*, how does his book compare to the original *Pride and Prejudice*?

Discovering & Evaluating Classic Fiction

This week, Maclean’s writer Brian Bethune writes a review of a new book called *Pride and Prejudice and Zombies*, the “latest, if goriest, take on the most adapted novel in history.”

- What did you learn about the famous classic, *Pride and Prejudice* by Jane Austen, from this article? Write down key quotations and, for each, explain what you learned.
- Search the article to find evaluative statements by Bethune to discover what he and others feel about the novel *Pride and Prejudice* and its author. Write down key quotations, and for each explain what you learned.
- Search the article to find derivatives of Austen’s name. How many can you find? What does this tell you about her appeal as an author?
- Austen’s novel was written in 1813, which is almost 200 years ago. Are 19th century novels still relevant today? Do novels written this far in the past have a place in the high school English curriculum, in your opinion? Search your school’s book lists to determine how frequently past classics of literature are studied.
- Bethune tells us that clearly “Austen’s novel still resonates with women.” Do novels with female protagonists appeal only to women? What novels have you read that only appeal to females? What novels have you read that only appeal to males? What novels have you read that appeal to both?
- A classic work of literature is generally one that is considered to be of the highest quality or lasting value. Jane Austen’s novel *Pride and Prejudice* is one of the most famous classics. What does a novel have to have in order to be considered a classic, in your opinion?

Parodies & Mash-ups: Analysis, Personal Response & Discussion

A **parody** is an amusing imitation that deliberately copies another work in a comic or satirical way. A **mash-up** is a particular type of parody which involves a strange concoction of the original genre with a completely different genre. A **genre** is a category of artistic works based on form, style, or subject matter. Genres include romance, comedy, horror, mystery, and detective stories.

In his article, “Mr. Darcy, Miss Bennet and zombies,” Brian Bethune reviews Seth Grahame-Smith’s book, *Pride and Prejudice and Zombies* — a “mash-up” of Jane Austen’s 1813 classic novel, *Pride and Prejudice*, and the 1986 zombie film, *Night of the Living Dead*.

- What does Bethune think about Grahame-Smith’s *Pride and Prejudice and Zombies*? Search the article to find details which convey his evaluation of this “mash-up” book. Support your conclusion with quotations from the article.

- 2) What do we learn of the “zombie/horror” additions and changes to Austen’s text in Grahame-Smith’s *Pride and Prejudice and Zombies*?
- 3) Individually, make a list of favourite novels, stories, songs or movies. How would you respond if someone made a “mash-up” of one of your favourite work of literature or movie by combining the original genre with a new strange one? Explain.
- 4) Can you identify any other parodies or “mash-ups” in the media? If so, briefly describe the original and then briefly describe the parody or “mash-up.” What aspects of the original were parodied? What aspects of the original were changed? Were any genres combined, as is the case with *Pride and Prejudice and Zombies*?
- 5) Bethune quotes writer Grahame-Smith as saying: “I hope the addition of zombies, ninjas and vomit will bring more male readers to the Austenverse.” Do you agree that the “mash-up” of the zombie genre with Austen’s original makes the classic story more appealing to men? As a class, determine if “mash-ups” have more appeal for contemporary audiences.

Writing

Write a parody or “mash-up” of a poem or song of your choice. When your new version is complete, present it to the class and include the following:

- A copy of the original poem or song with a brief explanation of its genre
- A list of what was omitted from the original poem or song
- A list of what was added to the original poem or song
- An short analysis of how these modifications have changed the tone (attitude); mood (feeling); and theme of the original

Pre-Reading: This And That...

As a class, discuss the following:

- 1) When did President Barack Obama visit Canada? What was so special about this visit?
- 2) What city did he visit? Why did he visit that particular city?
- 3) The article makes a reference to the Stations of the Cross when talking about President Obama's visit to Ottawa? What do you think the writer of the article is trying to say with this reference?
- 4) Look at the picture beside the article showing the cookies that President Obama bought when he visited Canada. What is so special about these cookies?
- 5) What is the Genies?
- 6) What is *eTalk*?
- 7) Where is the government of the United States located?

Vocabulary Buildup

Use the clues provided to guess the words below. The words appear here in the same order as in the article.

- 1) unplanned: _ m _ _ _ _ _ _ _ u
- 2) not religious: s _ _ _ _ _ a _
- 3) something a little different from others of the same type: v _ r _ _ o _
- 4) a workplace where baked goods (breads and cakes and pastries) are produced or sold: _ a _ e _ _ _
- 5) shop window showing goods sold inside:
_ _ s p _ _ y
- 6) advertising; showing off: _ _ u _ _ _ g
- 7) something bought: p _ _ _ h _ _ e
- 8) reporters and journalists: _ e d _ _ _
- 9) unusual; rare: u n _ _ _ e
- 10) directions for cooking something: r _ _ _ _ e
- 11) the city where a country's government is located:
_ _ p _ t _ _ _
- 12) changed to something else: s w _ _ _ _ e d
- 13) give the name of something or someone:
_ d e _ _ _ _ _

Expression of the Week

Search through the article to find a phrase that expresses how well the maple leaf cookies made by Le Moulin de Provence bakery in Ottawa are selling. (You can also think about why this expression is funny in this particular article.)

Reading for Detail

- 1) The name of the market President Obama visited when he came to Ottawa:

- 2) The name of the bakery where President Obama bought his cookies:

- 3) The shape of the cookies President Obama bought:

- 4) What the sign in the Ottawa bakery's window says:

- 5) What did *eTalk* reporters have when they interviewed film stars who attended the Genie award show held in Ottawa?

- 6) How many cookies a day did the Ottawa bakery sell before President Obama made his purchase there?

- 7) How many cookies a day is the Ottawa bakery selling since President Obama made his purchase there?

- 8) How much do Obama cookies cost?

- 9) What kind of cookies are Obama cookies?

- 10) Coffee shops and government agencies from which cities have placed orders for Obama cookies?

Prepositions

In this lesson we will examine the most commonly used prepositions in English. But first, let's take a look at a very important rule about prepositions.

Rule

A preposition is followed by a noun. It is never followed by a verb. When we talk about nouns, we are talking about:

- things (dog, money, love)
- proper nouns (names—Toronto, Steve)
- pronouns (you, him, us)
- noun groups (my first job)
- gerunds: (verb-ing, example: swimming)

So, remember, if we want to follow a preposition with a verb, we must use the -ing form.

Now, what are the most common prepositions, and when do we use them?

In

We use *in* when we talk about enclosed spaces: in a room / in a building / in a garden.

We also use *in* when we talk about areas of water: in the water / in a river / in the sea.

Another use of *in* is when we talk about lines: in a line / in a row / in a queue.

At

We use *at* to talk about points or places: at the bus stop / at the door / at the bakery / at the end of the street.

On

We use *on* when we talk about surfaces: on the ceiling / on the wall / on the floor / on the table

We also use *on* when we talk about directions: on the left / on the right / straight on

To

We use *to* when we talk about movement from one place to another:

I went to the bakery.

Did you go to Ottawa?

Let's go to the market.

**Do not use *to* with *home*

Other common uses of the above prepositions:

In is used with months / seasons/time in the future: in twenty minutes

At is used to talk about a certain point of time: at the weekend / at night / at seven o'clock (when)

On is used with days of the week: on Monday / on Tuesday

To is used to show the beginning and end of a period of time: from Monday to Friday

More prepositions

By / next to / beside: left or right of somebody or something. "She is standing beside the President Obama's car."

Under: on the ground lower than something else. "The bag is under the table."

Below: lower than something else but above ground. "The fish are below the water."

Over: covered by something else. "It is cold. Put a jacket over your shirt."

Above: higher than something/somebody else but not directly over it/him. "There is a path above the lake."

Exercise One

Fill in the blanks using the correct preposition.

- 1) President Obama stayed ____ Ottawa ____ winter.
- 2) He went ____ the ByWard Market from his hotel.
- 3) It was raining. He was standing ____ his umbrella.
- 4) The bakery is ____ the right hand side of the street.
- 5) The bakery is open from Monday ____ Friday.
- 6) People stand ____ a line to buy the famous Obama cookies.

Exercise Two

Say which of the following sentences are incorrect:

- 1) President Obama went from Washington in Ottawa.

- 2) The cookie fell below the table and touched the ground.

- 3) *eTalk* arrived on Monday and stayed until Friday.

- 4) The cookies are covered above with wrapping paper.

- 5) Many restaurants in Montreal buy the Obama cookies.

- 6) You can see the cookies on the bakery counter.

Exercise Three

For each of the following sentences select the correct preposition form.

- 1) It was very cold so the President put a jacket (on/over/next to) his shirt.
- 2) There were many helicopters flying (over/above/beside/on) him.
- 3) His visit to Ottawa was very short. He stayed from early morning (on/at/in/to) late evening.
- 4) Some agencies have changed their cookie orders from their regular bakeries (above/in/to/below) the Moulin bakery.

- 5) The president was (on/under/over/at) the bakery when he bought the cookies.
- 6) He enjoyed the cookies (at/in/below/next to) night, when he was finished working.

Exercise Four

Which preposition do we use for the following?

- 1) To talk about surfaces

- 2) To talk about left or right of somebody

- 3) To talk about places

- 4) To talk about areas of water

- 5) To talk about moving from here to there

- 6) To talk about lower than something but not touching the ground.

Exercise Five

Work with a friend. Describe a routine that you do everyday. However, when you are describing it, stop before you say the preposition that you need, and get your friend to tell you the preposition that you should use.

Now get him/her to do the same.

Good luck and have fun!

Current Events Quiz

April 27, 2009 issue of Maclean's

Read the Business section's "Good News" and "Bad News" articles on page 32, and complete the following multiple-choice quiz:

- 1) **Consumer confidence in the U.S. seems to be**
 - a) much improved—consumers are buying more cars, appliances and clothing
 - b) somewhat improved—although during the past three months retail sales were better than during the same period last year, February's sales were disappointing
 - c) still very low—retail sales for cars, appliances and clothing for the last three months of this year were lower than during the same period last year as more people lost jobs and paycheques
- 2) **One of the signs indicating that the U.S. manufacturing sector may be coming out of its slump is the fact that**
 - a) there are many goods sitting in various companies' warehouses
 - b) there are many more warehouses being build
 - c) several companies are reporting a decline in their inventories
- 3) **The U.S. government debt has reached the**
 - a) US\$1 trillion level
 - b) US\$192 billion level
 - c) US\$39.2 billion level
- 4) **Since October, this many Canadians have lost their jobs, pushing the unemployment rate to this level.**
 - a) 387,000 Canadians; 8 per cent unemployment rate
 - b) 61,300 Canadians; 7 per cent unemployment rate
 - c) 38,700 Canadians; 8 per cent unemployment rate
- 5) **The effect of the International Energy Agency's report that global demand for oil will most likely decline this year was that**
 - a) oil prices fell below US\$52 a barrel
 - b) commuters were pleased but oil exporters braced for tough times ahead
 - c) both a) and b
- 6) **This week, the value of the Canadian dollar was up**
 - a) 8.2 per cent since February
 - b) 7.6 per cent since February
 - c) 6.7 per cents since February
- 7) **Canadian government's deficit (budget shortfall) for 2009 is now projected to come in at**
 - a) \$192 billion
 - b) \$39.2 billion
 - c) \$49.2 billion
- 8) **UBS strategist George Vasic believes the recent rise in the value of the Canadian dollar is due to**
 - a) the global business community's realization that Canada has a strong banking sector and a stable financial position
 - b) the global business community's realization that the U.S. dollar against which the Canadian dollar is pegged is getting weaker
 - c) the global business community's realization that Canada's mining and natural resources are no longer Canada's priority
- 9) **China reports that its economy is**
 - a) better—there has been more demand for iron, coal, oil, homes and cars
 - b) still in a nosedive—the country has had to import more iron, coal and oil to supply more homes and cars
 - c) stagnant—there were more sales of homes and cars, but the country's more iron, coal and oil imports were much lower
- 10) **The demand for housing in Canada in March**
 - a) was still 36 per cent below last year
 - b) rose by 13.7 per cent
 - c) both a) and b)

Answer Keys

Maclean's In-Class Program Teacher's Guide, April 27, 2009

Social Studies/Current Events

Comprehension

- 1) the Shia Personal Status Law
- 2) The law was devised and drafted by Shia senior clerics who trained in Iran when the Taliban was in power in Afghanistan.
- 3) The laws says that a wife must have sexual relations with her husband; it prevents her from inheriting her husband's wealth; and it limits when she can leave the house.
- 4) No, he believes that the law does not reflect the will of most Afghan Shias.
- 5) Following an international uproar, it has been placed on hold and is under review by the Afghan government.
- 6) a) the Hazara ethnic group
b) They are typically among the most religiously moderate of Afghans.
c) Hazara women appear in public with their faces uncovered.
- 7) The Taliban brutally persecuted and on occasion massacred Afghan Shias.
- 8) a) During the years of Taliban rule and the civil war before that, many Shia clerics studied in Iran.
b) Following the overthrow of the Taliban, these clerics returned and took up positions on religious councils or in the Afghan parliament, where the law was drafted.

English/Media

Comprehension

- 1) a) a 32-year-old Los Angeles writer by the name of Seth Grahame-Smith
b) Jane Austen's 1813 novel, *Pride and Prejudice*, and George Romero's equally classic 1968 zombie film, *Night of the Living Dead*.
- 2) a) There have been nine film and TV versions.
b) Unhappy modern women obsessing over Austen's orderly society in rural England.
c) The addition of "zombies, ninjas and vomit."
- 3) Austen fans seem to like it—the book does retain some 85 per cent of Austen's original text; horror fans, however, have been harder to please, maybe because there is not enough "brain-eating" and zombies.
- 4) Critics and readers now recognize the "viciously funny mean streak" in an author "once thought meek and mild."
- 5) Most of the plot is the same, but "the wicked are punished more severely than in the original."

Discovering and Evaluating Classic Fiction

- 1) In paragraph 1, we learn that *Pride and Prejudice* was written in 1813, and that its opening line, "a single man in possession of a good fortune must be in want of a wife," is very famous. In paragraph 2, we learn that it is "the most adapted novel in history" – there are "nine more or less straight-up film and TV versions." We also learn that the tone of the novel is satiric and "corrosively funny," that its content focuses on marriage, money, and the five Bennet girls, and that it is set in "Austen's orderly society in rural England." In paragraph 4, we learn that the female protagonist is "Lizzy Bennet, that independent woman with a sharp tongue." In paragraph 5, we learn a little about "the imperious Darcy" character from the following quote: "His fine, tall person, handsome features, noble mien, and the report, which was in general circulation within five minutes after his entrance, of his having 10,000 a year." This quotation also gives us a glimpse at Austen's use of irony.
- 2) Bethune praises Austen's writing using positive diction in paragraph 1 to introduce her novel: "one of the most beloved opening sentences in English literature, *Pride and Prejudice's* exquisite phrasing about the common notion...". Bethune also reveals the novel's popularity in paragraph 2, where he says that it is "the most adapted novel in history," but qualifies this at the end saying, "Clearly, Austen's novel still resonates with women." In paragraph 3, he implies that the novel has not resonated as well with men: "Did Grahame-Smith think a little blood and action might attract men?"

- 3) There are three references which reveal her popularity: paragraph 2—“Austen-esque” and “Austen-era”; paragraph 4—“Austenites.”

Parodies & Mash-ups: Analysis, Personal Response & Discussion

- 1) Bethune writes a positive review of Grahame-Smith’s *Pride and Prejudice and Zombies*, praising his ability to combine two completely separate, incongruous genres – classic romance and horror. In paragraph 1, he describes the book with positive diction: “Seth Grahame-Smith’s surprisingly graceful mash-up of Jane Austen’s 1813 novel and George Romero’s equally classic (in its own peculiar way) 1968 zombie film, *Night of the Living Dead*.” In paragraph 5, he is also complementary: “Grahame-Smith helps his cause too, by skillful mimicry of Austen’s style and the seamless way he adds his input.” Bethune does note in paragraph 4 that there are some critics of this book: “Horror fans have so far proved harder to please than Austenites.... Writer Cory Doctorow thinks there isn’t enough brain-eating....Not everyone is charmed on the other side either: ‘Eighty-five per cent Austen, 15 per cent a television writer named Seth Grahame-Smith, and 100 per cent terrible,’” huffed *The New Yorker*.”
- 2) In his opening paragraph, Bethune tells us that Grahame-Smith “does retain some 85 percent of Austen’s original text.” In paragraph 5, we learn a little bit more about this: “‘All the right couples end up together,’ the author says reassuringly, before adding, with evident relish, ‘but the wicked are punished much more severely than in the original.’”

ESL/Language Skills

Pre-Reading

- 1) President Obama visited Canada on Feb. 19th. It was his first official visit anywhere as President.
- 2) He came to Ottawa. Ottawa is where Canada’s Parliament is, and where Prime Minister Stephen Harper lives.
- 3) The reference compares President Obama’s visit to a religious event (the Stations of the Cross refers to the final hours of Jesus as He carried the cross).
- 4) They are baked in the shape of maple leaves—the maple leaf is an emblem of Canada—an important national symbol.
- 5) The Genies are a Canadian film awards show.
- 6) *ETalk* is an entertainment television show.
- 7) The government of the United States is located in Washington, D.C., which is also the capital city of the U.S.

Vocabulary Buildup

- 1) impromptu
- 2) secular
- 3) version
- 4) bakery
- 5) display
- 6) touting
- 7) purchase
- 8) media
- 9) unique
- 10) recipe
- 11) capital
- 12) switched
- 13) identify

Expression of the Week

The cookies are “selling like hotcakes.” It’s funny because they are cookies and they are selling like hotcakes.

Comprehension

- 1) ByWard Market
- 2) Le Moulin de Provence
- 3) the shape of a maple leaf
- 4) It says that President Obama bought cookies here.
- 5) Le Moulin de Provence’s maple-leaf shaped cookies
- 6) 100
- 7) 400
- 8) \$2.25 plus tax
- 9) shortbread cookies
- 10) Ottawa, Montreal, Toronto, Vancouver and Washington

Exercise One

- 1) President Obama stayed in Ottawa in winter.
- 2) He went to the ByWard Market from his hotel.
- 3) It was raining. He was standing under his umbrella.
- 4) The bakery is on the right hand side of the street.
- 5) The bakery is open from Monday to Friday.
- 6) People stand in a line to buy the famous Obama cookies.

Exercise Two

- 1) President Obama went from Washington in Ottawa. (Incorrect—*in* should be *to*)
- 2) The cookie fell below the table and touched the ground. (Incorrect—*below* should be *under*)
- 3) *eTalk* arrived on Monday and stayed until Friday. (Correct)
- 4) The cookies are covered above with wrapping paper. (Incorrect—*above* should be *over*)
- 5) Many restaurants in Montreal buy the Obama cookies. (Correct)
- 6) You can see the cookies on the bakery counter. (Correct)

Exercise Three

- 1) It was very cold so the President put a jacket over his shirt.
- 2) There were many helicopters flying above him.
- 3) His visit to Ottawa was very short. He stayed from early morning to late evening.
- 4) Some agencies have changed their cookie orders from their regular bakeries to the Moulin bakery.
- 5) The president was at the bakery when he bought the cookies.
- 6) He enjoyed the cookies at night when he was finished working.

Exercise Four

- 1) To talk about surfaces (on)
- 2) To talk about left or right of somebody (by/next to/beside)
- 3) To talk about places (at)
- 4) To talk about areas of water (in)
- 5) To talk about moving from here to there (to)
- 6) To talk about lower than something but not touching the ground. (below)

Current Events Quiz

- 1) b 2) c 3) a 4) a 5) c 6) b 7) b 8) a 9) a 10) c