

2017 Chinese Teacher Training Workshops
Presenter: Shaz Lawrence

Workshop #1

Create Fluent Readers With Chinese ‘Reader Workshops’

Explore the ‘Reader Workshop’ model of teaching and learn how to ensure fluency in students of Chinese. Practical examples will be explored of how vocabulary, reading for meaning and decoding high frequency characters will ‘super charge’ your student’s comprehension skills. This session will center on these three micro-skills and teachers will be invited to brainstorm ways they can be implemented into their Chinese language curriculum.

Workshop #2

Day One: Start Journal Writing!

Students become better writers by writing and getting feedback about their writing. This session is an introduction to Journal Writing and includes simple steps on how to start your own Journal writing routine from day one. Journals encourage ‘writing to learn’ which is based on the assumption that students’ thoughts and understanding can grow and clarify through the process of writing. Participants will examine ways to integrate Journal writing into the fabric of the Chinese language course and make regular and frequent use of a journal in class.

Workshop #3

The Immersive Classroom – Making Language Comprehensible

Current research indicates that good language teachers use the target language almost exclusively in lessons. We will view examples of how teachers use comprehensible input to immerse students in the Chinese language. Over time, the fluency, accuracy and spontaneous use of language by students, develops rapidly. This immersive classroom approach makes meaning clear through body language, gestures and visual support. We will choose effective strategies to use in our classrooms that will make language comprehensible to all students.

Workshop #4

Teacher-Tested Tips For Classroom Management

The strategies teachers use to create a positive learning environment that supports and facilitates learning, is essential for success. This session is a practical examination of our expectations, our procedures, and engagement techniques that form the foundation of any effective language program.

Workshop #5

Bring The World Into Your Classroom With Authentic Materials

Students learning Chinese need to know that there are lots of cool situations where they will use the language. For this session, we will put aside textbooks and use authentic materials as a starting point to plan units of work that are both meaningful and engaging. Participants in small groups will be given authentic materials as a starting point in brainstorming a unit of work.

Workshop #6

Learning Centers In The K-5 Chinese Language Classroom? Absolutely!

Learning Centers are areas of the classroom where students rotate after working on independent and self-directed learning activities. At each Center, students practice skills in reading, writing, listening, speaking and comprehension. This session will introduce teachers (through hands-on activities) to student roles so they can experience how Learning Centers can be set up and managed effectively.

Workshop #7

Snapshots, Selfies And Digital Portfolios

This session will explore how technology can be harnessed to document the student's journey of learning the Chinese language. Ongoing reflection on student's progress and feedback is essential for effective learning of any language. Technology empowers students to independently document their learning and provides an audience for their work—their peers, parents, or the world through digital portfolios. Students are able to save and submit a variety of work -- videos, photos, text, and drawings, and they can reflect on their work in writing or with a voice recording. Examples of digital portfolios will be shown and a step-by-step guide given to teachers to get started.

Workshop #8

The Inquiry-Based Learning Classroom

Curiosity and essential questions are the basis for engaging active students in the learning process. Explore how to plan learning activities that harness inquiry and investigation that puts the student at the center of all learning. Connecting prior knowledge, goal setting, exploration, feedback, and assessment of learning will also be explored.

Workshop #9

Assessment for Learning

Research in assessment suggests that learners learn best, and attainment improves, when learners understand clearly what they are learning, and what is expected of them; are given feedback about the quality of their work, and what they can do to make it better. Explore how formative and summative assessment for learning, can be the key to success in your Chinese language classroom.

Workshop #10

The Thematic Approach to Teaching Chinese

Very often isolated topics are taught in Chinese classes, but in this session we will explore the power of themes. Themes are a great way to pull together a number of topics, so learning is effective, related to the real world, and meaningful to the students. Teachers will run through the process of developing their own themes using learning outcomes, assessment activities, and vocabulary content.

Workshop #11

The Interdisciplinary Approach to Teaching Chinese

The Interdisciplinary approach to teaching Chinese gives students a more relevant and stimulating experience in the classroom. Students are able to make connections between experiences and outcomes from many subject areas, making the learning of the Chinese language much more meaningful and enjoyable. We will examine how this method starts with a central theme and how the Chinese language and culture can be integrated across different curriculum disciplines.

Workshop #12

Multiple Intelligences and Learning Chinese

Explore the theory of Multiple Intelligences and learn new ways to implement MI in the Chinese Language Classroom. We will examine the 8 ways of being smart as proposed by Howard Gardner, find out our own learning styles, and review Units of Work that integrate MI into the learning of the Chinese Language.

Workshop #13

Thinking Outside the Box - Teaching Chinese Creatively

Engaging students in the process of learning Chinese can sometimes be challenging. In this workshop we will "think outside the box" and examine creative and fun ways to introduce the Chinese language to preschool students. Games, Songs, Movement, and Music are not only fun activities, but should be a springboard for deeper learning.

Workshop #14

Chinese Characters Made Easy

Teachers will discover twenty fun ways to encourage students to read and write Chinese characters effectively to communicate. Break down the barriers to learning Chinese characters by employing enjoyable and effective teaching strategies into your Chinese classroom. Visual cues, teaching of radicals, and imagination are all effective ways for teachers to ensure all students are able to read characters successfully.

Workshop #15

TPR - Teach Chinese the active way!

We will explore the TPR theory of language learning. (Total Physical Response) Total Physical Response encourages students to be active and demonstrate their comprehension of the Chinese language through actions and activities. The workshop is based on the work of Dr. James Asher who developed this language learning method and is very useful for beginner learners of Chinese.

Workshop #16

Touch Technologies in a Chinese Language Classroom

Explore how the iPod /iPad can be integrated seamlessly into the Chinese language classroom to support the learning for each student. Demonstrations will be shown of how students can learn independently, using supporting Podcasts, Apps and videos, to enhance speaking, listening, and reading skills.

Workshop #17

Differentiation – One size does not fit all

Students have different needs and favored learning styles. Differentiating in the Chinese language classroom involves matching your teaching methods to students' needs and providing students with multiple options and paths for learning. We will explore the use of Choice Boards, Exit Slips, Student Goals, and Learning Contracts to maximize language learning in the classroom. Teachers attending this workshop will understand how to pre-assess learning, how to use ongoing checks for understanding, and provide creative learning tasks for mixed-ability classes. Practical examples of how to develop differentiated units of work will be shared.

Workshop #18

Creative Writing – Let the students write!

Often we limit our younger language students to practicing writing Characters on grids, or formula writing patterns and templates. Unleash the imagination and creativity of your students with creative writing in the Chinese language classroom. Writing is a process and is an opportunity for growth in writing for communication and meaning. Practical ideas to get even the youngest learner writing creatively using Chinese characters will be explored.

Workshop #19

How To Embed Critical Thinking And Problem-Solving Into The Chinese Immersion Classroom

In the Chinese language classroom it is important that students are given skills for the 21st century. These essential skills put students in the important role of problem solvers and critical thinkers. They become actively and constructively engaged in the process of learning the Chinese language. We will examine Blooms Taxonomy, which is a useful tool that we can use to embed into any Chinese language curriculum. A student-centered classroom where language learners think critically by asking appropriate questions, gathering relevant information, sorting through this information, and then analyzing their own progress, empowers the learner, and has a significant impact on the quality of language skills developed.