

**Sub theme:**

**Empowering teachers to teach literature**

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# **Three Approaches to Adapting Literary Texts for the Classroom**

**by Ian Smith**

## **Abstract**

In ‘Three Approaches to Adapting Literary Texts for the Classroom’ Ian Smith suggests three approaches for teachers and materials designers to use when they adapt literary texts for the language classroom and make them the basis for questions that the learners have to discuss or activities that the learners have to complete.

The approaches – ‘tools’ for adapting a literary text successfully – are exploiting it on a linguistic level, a cultural level and a personal level. These three approaches are demonstrated with reference to a short story, *On the Western Circuit* (Hardy 1894) by the late 19th century/early 20th century English author Thomas Hardy. An extract from the story indicates how certain linguistic features of it can be identified, focused on and practised to make learners more aware of them.

A synopsis of the story as a whole indicates how it can be used for cultural activities, for example, comparing aspects of the story’s 19th century setting with aspects of life today, and for activities where students develop such personal skills as empathy, reflection and moral judgement.