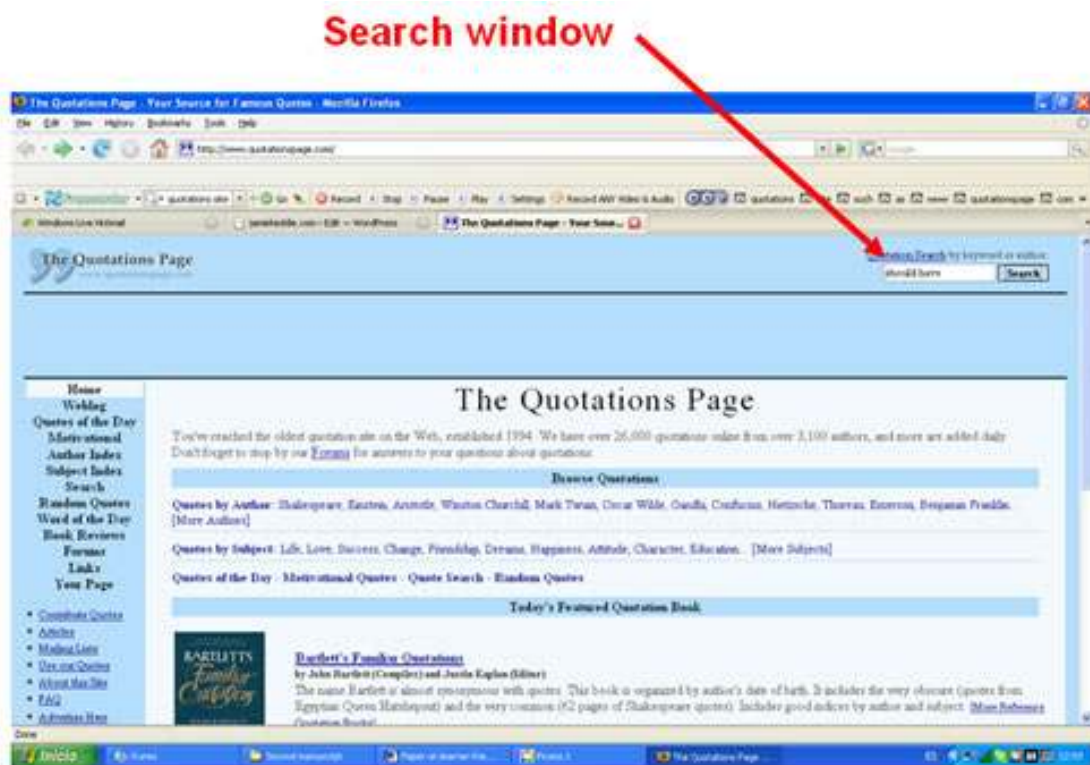


Coulda shoulda woulda quotations

A free lesson plan from jamiekeddie.com

This is an idea for teaching structures that contain 'could have', 'should have' or 'would have'. The quotations in the activity were obtained from **The Quotations Page** (www.quotationspage.com) by typing either of these word pairs into the search window at the top right:



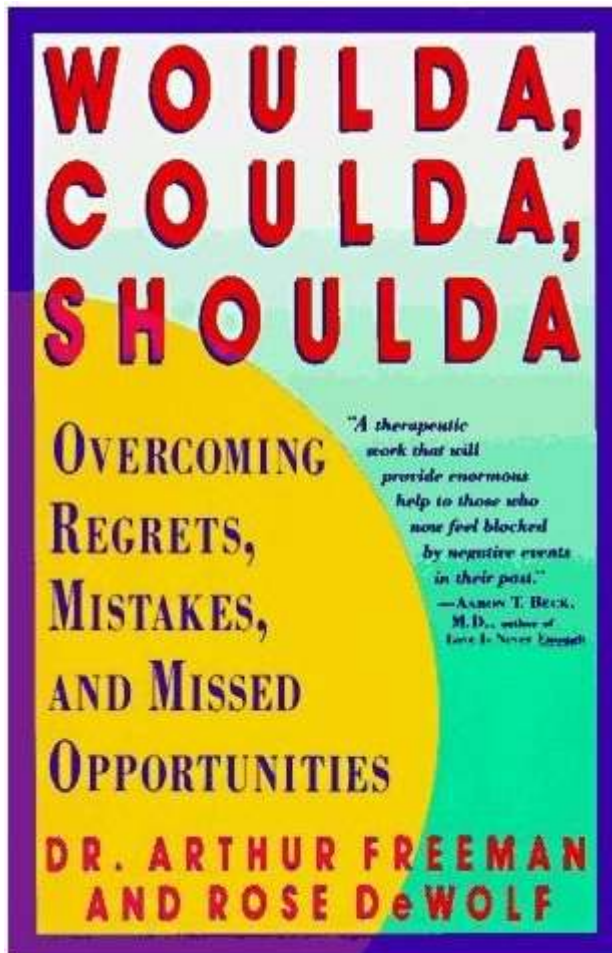
Method

1. Tell students that you are going to show them a book cover that is about “regrets, mistakes and missed opportunities”. Ask them to suggest what the title of the book might be.
2. Play hangman with the actual title:

-----, -----, -----

(Woul da, could a, should a)

3. Show students the following image



4. Give out copies of the ‘Woul da Could a Should a Quotations’ handout on page 4.
5. Ask students to choose their 3 favourite quotations. This ensures that they read and attempt to comprehend them.

6. Give out copies of the gap fill (page 5) and ask students to translate the missing parts into their own language. For example a Spanish student would write:

*I always wanted to be somebody, but **debería haber sido** more specific.
Jane Wagner, (and Lily Tomlin)*

(For monolingual classes, this usually works best if students work together.)

7. Take away the first handout (i.e. the full quotations)
8. Ask students to write out the whole quotations in English on a new piece of paper. In order to do this, they will have to copy the parts which are already in English and translate the parts in their L1 back into English. This might sound like quite a task but students usually enjoy it.
9. Give out the original handouts (the 'Woulda Coulda Shoulda Quotations') and let students correct their work.

Woulda Coulda Shoulda Quotations

- *I always wanted to be somebody, but I **should have been** more specific.*
Jane Wagner, (and Lily Tomlin)
- *The hardest work in the world is that which **should have been** done yesterday.*
Author Unknown
- *It's our fault. We **should have given** him better parts.*
Jack Warner, on hearing that Ronald Reagan had been elected governor of California
- *I didn't see it then, but it turned out that getting fired from Apple was the best thing that **could have ever happened** to me. The heaviness of being successful was replaced by the lightness of being a beginner again, less sure about everything. It freed me to enter one of the most creative periods of my life.*
Steve Jobs (1955 -), Stanford University commencement address, June 12, 2005
- *The worst thing you can possibly do is worrying and thinking about what you **could have done**.*
Georg Christoph Lichtenberg (1742 - 1799)
- *What profits a man if he keeps his eternal soul when he **could have lived** life to the full and been forgiven at the end of it all anyway?*
David Merritt, a.k.a. THE RED SHARK
- *If government could create jobs and raise children, socialism **would have worked**.*
George Gilder
- *An intelligence test sometimes shows a man how smart he **would have been** not to have taken it.*
Laurence J. Peter (1919 - 1988)
- *My wife and I tried to breakfast together, but we had to stop or our marriage **would have been** wrecked.*
Sir Winston Churchill (1874 - 1965)

Gap fill

- *I always wanted to be somebody, but _____ more specific.*
Jane Wagner, (and Lily Tomlin)
- *The hardest work in the world is that which _____ yesterday.*
Author Unknown
- *It's our fault. We _____ better parts.*
Jack Warner, on hearing that Ronald Reagan had been elected governor of California
- *I didn't see it then, but it turned out that getting fired from Apple was the best thing that _____.*
The heaviness of being successful was replaced by the lightness of being a beginner again, less sure about everything. It freed me to enter one of the most creative periods of my life.
Steve Jobs (1955 -), Stanford University commencement address, June 12, 2005
- *The worst thing you can possibly do is worrying and thinking about what _____.*
Georg Christoph Lichtenberg (1742 - 1799)
- *What profits a man if he keeps his eternal soul when he _____ life to the full and been forgiven at the end of it all anyway?*
David Merritt, a.k.a. *THE RED SHARK*
- *If government could create jobs and raise children, socialism _____*
George Gilder
- *An intelligence test sometimes shows a man how smart he _____ not to have taken it.*
Laurence J. Peter (1919 - 1988)
- *My wife and I tried to breakfast together, but we had to stop or our marriage _____ wrecked.*
Sir Winston Churchill (1874 - 1965)