

“It opened up a whole new world to me”

Anita Bruce

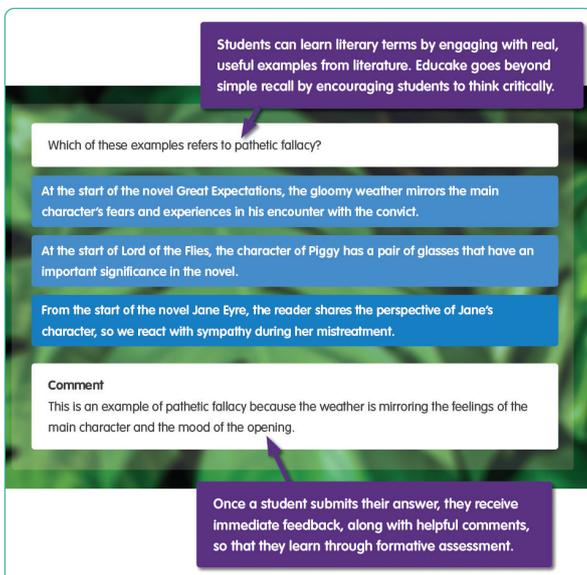
- Position: English teacher
- Teaching experience: 39 years
- Length of time using Educake: 6 weeks

When lockdown started, Anita Bruce and her colleagues in the English department at Minsthorpe Community College in Pontefract had to get to grips with online learning tools quickly.

“I’ve been teaching for 39 years, and I’ve not had very much experience in online learning programmes ... We started using Educake as a department after Easter. Our colleagues in the science department have been using it for years, and so our principal recommended it.”

The value of retrieval practice

“I still feel quite a novice with it. But I’ve learned quickly about how it can impact my students. It’s a diagnostic programme that gets into the corners of subject knowledge and guides students to be precise and accurate in their English skills.”



Students can learn literary terms by engaging with real, useful examples from literature. Educake goes beyond simple recall by encouraging students to think critically.

Which of these examples refers to pathetic fallacy?

- At the start of the novel *Great Expectations*, the gloomy weather mirrors the main character's fears and experiences in his encounter with the convict.
- At the start of *Lord of the Flies*, the character of Piggy has a pair of glasses that have an important significance in the novel.
- From the start of the novel *Jane Eyre*, the reader shares the perspective of Jane's character, so we react with sympathy during her mistreatment.

Comment
This is an example of pathetic fallacy because the weather is mirroring the feelings of the main character and the mood of the opening.

Once a student submits their answer, they receive immediate feedback, along with helpful comments, so that they learn through formative assessment.

Feedback and self-reflection

“It’s very attractive visually and the auto-marking means they get instant feedback, which allows them to go the next step with the feedback, diagnosis and response. I love how it’s a celebration of learning. It’s positive, positive, positive, which is how I like education to be.

“I found it really interesting to see students do their own learning reviews and to read what they’re thinking about: what went well, what didn’t go so well, and what to improve on. I see that being a really powerful complement to our own feedback.”

Keeping students engaged

With some students having limited support and monitoring at home, Anita thinks engagement is vital.

“It’s so good at getting students to do things independently and appreciate the power of review work. It’s a model that could really help students accelerate their own learning and develop confidence.”

GCSE English Test Results Show Help

Start Date	End Date	Year	Class	Questions	Main Topics														
06-05-2015	18-05-2015	9	SC	35	Extract 6: "War"														
All Qs																			
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q5	Q6	Q7	Q8	Q9	Q10	Q11	Q12	Q13	Q14	Q15	Q16	Q17	Q18	
All Students (%)	48	48	79	23	57	32	25	43	54	38	57	29	57	51	59	54	51	39	54
Alison Moyet	✓	✓	✗	✗	✓	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Beyonce Knowles	✓	✓	✗	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Ray Charles	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Nina Simone	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗
Jim Morrison	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
King Curtis	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Billy Bragg	✓	✗	✗	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Johnny Marr	✓	✓	✗	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Bernard Butler	✓	✓	✗	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Richard D. James	✓	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

CLICK TO CHANGE MARK

Question:
The writer of Source B begins her blog with the line: "Every so often, I like to torture myself". What is the phrase "torture myself" an example of?

Accepted Answer:
hyperbole

Student's Answer:
personification

Marked as Wrong

The role of teachers

While Educake helped Anita make remote learning work, it also made her think about her teaching practice in general.

“It’s reminded me of the importance of retrieval practice for things like literary terms and word classes. I think that’s something that gets neglected, and for me it was a great reminder of the importance of revisiting these, for both students and teachers, before the forgetting curve kicks in.”

“Educake has given me the power to be more diagnostic, picking up personalised patterns in students’ learning, as well as across classes collectively. It’s something I’ll use even when students are back in class.”

Anita’s conclusion:

“ I think it’s absolutely great and has fabulous potential with long-term use. I love the way Educake has thought of how teachers and students can progress together through teaching and learning.”

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