

Retro Batman & Vocabulary Activity

Materials/Resources:

For anybody who remembers the Batman TV series in the 1960's, much of the writing for that show contained tongue-in-cheek dialogue within a corny context. Many of the memorable quotes (listed on a corresponding document) utilize higher level vocabulary skills and are often stated to illustrate a point or lesson. The silliness of the quotes may not be obvious to a student who is unfamiliar with the TV series but video clips from some of the shows are available on YouTube and provide the background setting for the use of the memorable quotes in a lesson.

Clips from the Batman TV series are as follows:

[Batman Movie Trailer](#)

[Best of 1966 Batman](#)

[Holy Sardine Batman!](#)

Skills Targeted:

- *Vocabulary
- *Silliness (Abstract Humor)
- *Inferential Thinking
- *Conversation

Instruction:

1. Introduce to students, the Batman TV series via video clips noted above. Briefly note the campy nature of this TV series and discuss the style of humor used. The word "corny" can best be used to describe the show but also illustrate the use of the "dead pan" delivery typically done by Batman/Bruce Wayne. It is also worth pointing out the recurring theme between Batman and Robin that emphasizes a moral or educational lesson within their dialogue.
2. Once the students are familiar with the TV series and style of delivery, introduce the corresponding list of quotes. Key vocabulary words are highlighted.
3. Instruct and teach students to identify clues and context to infer a particular meaning of targeted vocabulary words. Facilitate discussions that require students to analyze word meanings.
4. After discussion of targeted word(s), provide formal definition. Have students restate the known meaning of the vocabulary word within the context in which it was said to check for understanding.