

Jalil Mammadguluzade and “Mullah Nasraddin” Magazine

Pre-reading activities:

Students should identify comics that show satiric expressions and then compare some of images of the authors and what they tried to show. This can be marvel, or any of the known comic books familiar to the students.



Jalil Mammadguluzade, also known as Mirza Jalil is an eminent Azerbaijani journalist and writer. He started his career as a teacher after he graduated from teachers' training school in Gori, Georgia. He later became well known as the founder and the editor-in-chief of a widely read magazine in Azerbaijan and all through the Far East.

Jalil Mammadguluzade is considered one of the distinguished figures in our national literature. He is the founder of the “Mullah Nasraddin” magazine, which was founded on 7th of April in 1906. The magazine was enjoyed in the entire Near East. Being the writer of the magazine, he had managed to gather enlightened writers around the magazine and thus established the “Mullah Nasraddinist” literary movement. This is why he had also adopted the “Mullah Nasraddin” penname.

Mullah Nasraddin is the first prominent satirical columnist and started a new stage in Azerbaijani prose. He has made exceptional contributions into the revival and development of the national public conscience. He is one of the geniuses behind journalism in the country. He has embodied the endless capacities of Azerbaijani in his novellas, stories and satiric articles on various topics. He has skillfully painted the social life and typical character of Azerbaijani villages of the 19th and 20th centuries. He was the forerunner of realist fiction in the last century.

Jalil Mammadguluzade is the first satirical writer in Azerbaijan. He dedicated the wit of his talent as a writer, and later as a dramatist, to inspire interest towards the happenings in the society, which he believed to retard the development of independent and educated personalities, who knew how to define their place in life. One of the crucial topics our 19th and 20th century writers developed in their works was the significance of education in the formation of identities of a new kind, which was free from religious prejudice and traditional views on people's lives. And this is what made them historically important figures for our people.

The first ever issue of the "Mullah Nasraddin" came out on 7th of April, 1906 in Tiflis. It was published in Tiflis until 1918, in Tabriz until 1921 and in Baku from 1922 to 1931.

Published in Azerbaijani, the "Mullah Nasraddin" magazine became the only satirical magazine in the entire Muslim world and Near East. The magazine took its name from the folkloric character Mullah Nasraddin, also known as the Hoja Nasraddin. He is the main hero of numerous satirical stories and anecdotes.

The cover of the first issue of the "Mulla Nasraddin" depicted the "awakening nation of the East". In the following twenty years, the magazine earned a reputation by showing the world to its readers through cartoons and quality text. The magazine was published in Azerbaijani. It was initially in Arabic alphabet, but later in Latin, as the Bolsheviki seized power. At times, the magazine was also issued in Russian.

The audience looked forward to every issue of the magazine, but those who became the object of satire hated it wholeheartedly. At the times of Jalil Mammadguluzade, ridiculing the clergymen and fighting for women's rights was absolutely a risky endeavor. Some religious figures published leaflets,

which subjected Mammadguluzade to anathema and wanted his death. The magazine's editorial office in Tiflis was searched numerous times.

The magazine also included articles, dedicated to the development of literature. The authors especially wrote about folklore and attached great importance to it, as they saw folklore as the source of the mother tongue. The magazine turned into a creative laboratory of sorts, which coined a new style of Azerbaijani prose and poetry, which was available for the wide audience. Later, in the 20th century, the style of the magazine's authors was called "democratic". Writers-democrats Mammadguluzade and Sabir looked for and found new forms and means, which emphasized availability and expression of their native language.

In 1918, "Mullah Nasraddin" supported the establishment of the Azerbaijan Democratic Republic, as it published articles, which glorified the idea of independence and democracy. In 1919, Azerbaijani women received a right to vote. The magazine also played a role in that. It was published until 1931 with some intervals. As the soviet government took hold of Azerbaijan, the magazine was continuously attacked and criticized by the government, as it managed to preserve its democratic and urgent-social character. As a result, it had to shut down due to many reasons.

The old issues of the magazine are still preserved at the Mirza Fatali Akhundzade National Library of Azerbaijan. The history of its establishment and publication is taught in literature classes in local and international schools in Azerbaijan.

Questions:

1. Who is Jalil Mammadguluzade?
2. When was Mullah Nasraddin founded?
3. What is the magazine famous style of communication?
4. Who was the main character of the magazine?
5. Where was Mullah Nasraddin first published?
6. Where can you find the old issues of the magazine?

Post reading activities:

Students should try doing satire, using comic to talk about issues and some of the stories that they want to share with an audience.

Subject: Social Students	Class: Grade 4 / 5 / 6	Date:	Lesson:	Time: 1 hour	No. of pupils: (boys/girls)	Teacher:
Topic/Context Heroes of our land: Jalil Mammadguluzade and “Mullah Nasraddin” Magazine				Prior learning/experience Basic knowledge of English Language in the classroom		
Resources Materials prepared for the purpose of teaching English through social studies				Focus of observation (if appropriate) 1. Learning English language through social studies 2. Connecting our societies with the rest of the world		
Learning Objectives/Intentions: By the end of the lesson students will be able to: 1. Forms of satire and how it is used in communicating serious issues 2. The role of the Mullah Nasraddin in the Far East and Muslim world				Success Criteria /How Progress will be demonstrated: 1. Student ability to make connection between history and society over different centuries 2. Appreciation of past histories and heroes in shaping the modern Azerbaijan		

Clock Time	Learning Activity (TS3)	Key Questions (TS4)	Differentiation (TS5)	Assessment Opportunities (TS6)
	Starter/Bell Work (Where appropriate): LA1: Welcome student to the lesson; attendance and messages LA2: Review of previous lessons	How has our knowledge of previous lessons helped our understanding?	Some students might be new to the class, revising past classwork help them to connect with the lesson	Retentiveness of past lessons; producing text of previous homework
	Main Activities: LA3: Introduce the collections of satire of “Mullah Nasraddin” Magazine in English language and discuss some the satiric expressions and the relevance	What are some of the topics covered? What was addressed and who were the oppressor and the oppressed?	Students might have never read or know that the English version of the selected satire exists	Class participation and engagement
	Plenary/Review: LA4: How to read satire and understand it; how to read comics and some of the languages used in explaining comic	What are some of the satires we know? Is satire a valid form of communicating current affairs?	Students should be able to share some of the anecdotes and satire they have heard or read before	Critical thinking
	Homework /Independent Learning LA6: Post-reading questions	What are some of the information that we are pointed to? How has the story helped us understand the situation of the Azerbaijan over many years?	How can students show understanding and connect to learning objectives	Research ability