

# Spring Teacher's Notes

## **BEFORE CLASS:**

- **Set up large whiteboard and write "Conversation Class"**
  - **Ask a volunteer to prepare name tags for everyone as they enter the class**
  - **Prepare registration forms for new students**
1. Say hi to students by name (if you remember) as they are coming in and finding chairs.
  2. Welcome the class. Smile! Introduce yourself.
  3. Ask: When I say the word 'spring' (write it on the board) what words do you think of? -
    - Record the class answers on the whiteboard.
    - Clarify words if you think that some students won't know what they mean.
  4. Ask: Is this the first spring in Canada for some of you? If this is your first spring in Canada, raise your hand. Welcome the students who have recently moved to Canada.
  5. If there are few answers to question 4, ask "What is your favourite thing about Spring?"
  6. If you are able, buy some small spring flowers such as tulips, or daffodils, or crocuses. Show them to the class and ask "What kind of flowers are these?" Give the flowers to the students who most recently moved to Canada.
  7. Divide the class into groups. Have fun!
  8. At the end of class, ask everyone to share their answers to question 14. Write the answers on the whiteboard.
  9. *Optional: Define the word "Easter" in question 15 and announce an upcoming Easter service.*

# Spring Class Handout

1. What are the four seasons in Canada? Which Canadian season has two names? What seasons does your birth country have?
2. Describe each Canadian season. (See the picture on the back.) When does each season technically start in Canada? What kinds of things grow in each Canadian season? Describe the seasons in your birth country. What kinds of things grow in the seasons of your birth country?
3. How long have you lived in Canada? What is your favorite season of the year in Canada? Why? What is your favourite season in your birth country? Why?
4. Spring is the favourite season of the year for many people in Canada. Why do some people think that spring is the best time of year? List some reasons. (See suggestions on the back.)
5. Sometimes the weather is very windy and people will fly kites. What is a kite? Have you ever flown a kite? Do people in your birth country fly kites? Tell your conversation partner about that.
6. What other things do people like to do in spring weather? Which things have you done, or not done? What would you like to do this spring on a beautiful day? (See the back for ideas.)
7. Are you a gardener? Why or why not? What is your favorite flower or plant? Why do you think some people like gardening in the spring?
8. What is a 'green thumb'? (See the back.) Do you have a green thumb?
9. There is a saying in English: "The grass is always greener on the other side of the fence." What do you think it means? (See the back.) Have you ever felt like the grass was greener?
10. Another English saying is: "April showers bring May flowers." What are showers? What does this saying mean? (A possible answer is on the back.)
11. What are other names for rain or raining? Is heavy rain associated with spring in your birth country? Have you ever helped others in bad weather? What was the worst rain storm you have ever experienced?
12. Another saying in English is 'fair-weather friend.' What is 'fair weather'? What do you think a 'fair-weather friend' is? (Hint: It is not positive.) (A possible answer is on the back.)
13. What is a chicken? What do you think the phrase 'spring chicken' means? (See the back.)
14. Some people do 'spring cleaning.' What is spring cleaning? What are some things that could be cleaned in the spring? Why do you think some people like to specifically clean some things in the spring?
15. Easter is also in the spring. What is Easter? What are some symbols of the non-religious celebrations around Easter time? (for example, bunnies) (Some possible answers are on the back.)

# Spring Answer Key

## Question 2



## Question 4

It's when the grass turns green, plants grow bigger, and some flowers and trees start to bloom. The weather starts to warm up. Winter is finished! Can you list more reasons?

## Question 6

Things to do on a beautiful spring day: walk in a park, have a picnic, do some gardening, etc.

## Question 8

Green thumb: a special ability to make plants grow well

## Question 9

"The grass is always greener on the other side of the fence." Meaning: The things people have or their situations always look better than your own, even when they are not really like that. This saying is often shortened to "The grass is greener on the other side" or even "the grass is greener."

## Question 10

A shower is a small quick light rain. For example: "There will be occasional showers today." A shower can also be a way to clean one's body with water.

"April showers bring May flowers" means that the month of April, traditionally a rainy time, is followed by the month of May, traditionally a time when flowers begin to bloom because of previous rains. As an idiom, this saying can also mean that a time of discomfort can lead to the basis for a time of happiness.

## Question 11

Some other words for rain or raining: rainstorm, tropical storm, downpour, typhoon, hurricane, and monsoon rains.

## Question 12

Fair weather is pleasant, good, lovely weather. A friend who is only a 'fair-weather' friend is someone who only shows friendship when life is going well for others, but is not a good friend when life is difficult for others.

**Question 13** A 'spring chicken' is a young person, usually a female. For example, "I just turned 40 so I'm not a spring chicken any more!"

## Question 15

Easter is the time of year when Christians remember the crucifixion of Jesus (when Jesus died; also called Good Friday) and then His resurrection (when Jesus rose from the dead; also called Easter Sunday). Easter is also a time when many Canadians celebrate the idea of new life. Some non-religious symbols of Easter include bunnies (rabbits), eggs, chicks, green grass, and spring flowers.

