

New Bridges: Connecting People Through Language and Culture

Authors: Nancy Cheek, Ed.D; Kathryn Herbert, Ed.D * Illustrator: Gwen Turner

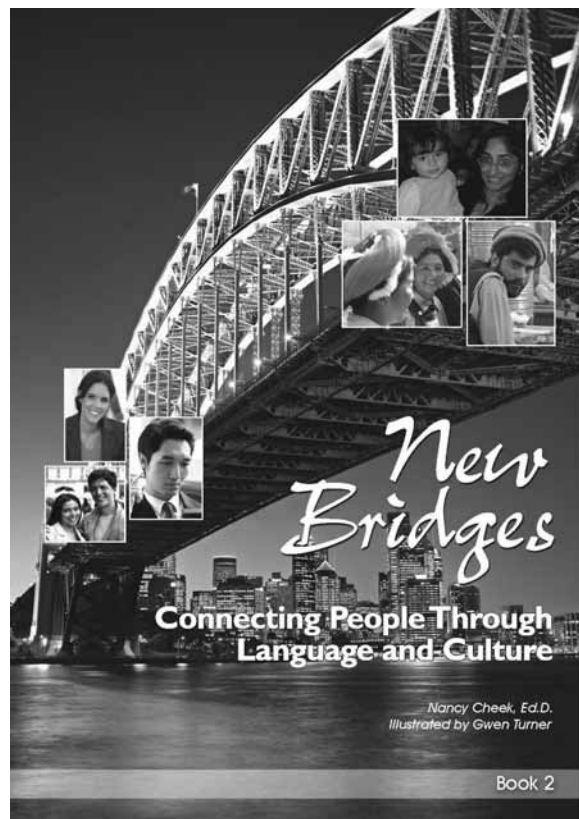
Interlink Resources International, Reading, PA

REVIEWED BY LISA LA GEORGE

The algorithm required to answer the question: “Can you recommend a text for me to Teach English as a Second/Foreign language?” is normally complex. I calculate location, native language, course objectives, and teacher experience; I sift through the existing texts; and then I have to explain why no text is adequate to accomplish the task. That calculation just got much easier, thanks to the introduction of the *New Bridges* curriculum. Written by Nancy Cheek and Kathryn Herbert, *New Bridges* showcases the best of interactive teaching methodology in a relevant topical format without sacrificing the grammatical and linguistic foundations that students need to become confident and competent interlocutors.

The *New Bridges* curriculum is comprehensive. The five levels of the curriculum span the spectrum from middle novice to upper intermediate, and the accompanying placement test allows the teacher to analyze a student’s capabilities in reading, writing, speaking and listening for accurate placement in the appropriate level. Each book in the series contains eight units which include three two-hour lessons for a total of 48 teaching hours. The teacher’s manual mirrors the student’s book, and both books can be supplemented with well-integrated conversation cards, game cards, and a teacher’s resource packet. Gwen Turner’s charming line-drawings illustrate the texts with pictures of modestly-dressed individuals from multiple cultures.

The *New Bridges* series states that the two authors have a wealth of cross-cultural experience, curricular

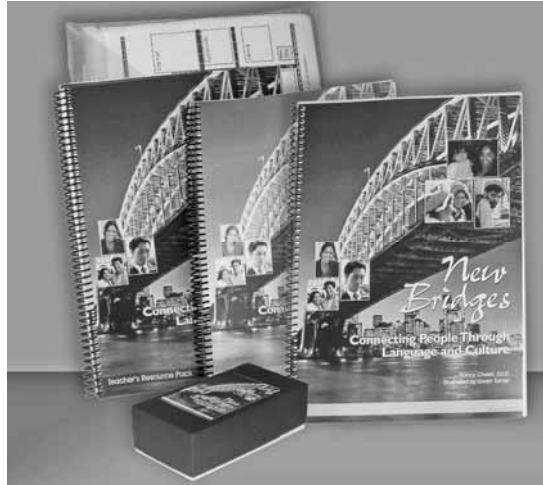


development, and many years of teacher-training between them, and it shows in the finished product. For the past ten years, I have been training undergraduate ESL/EFL teachers-in-training, and this series has proved to be clear enough for even my newest trainees to use in multiple educational, religious, and

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ethnic contexts, including urban U.S. multi-lingual classrooms and mono-lingual settings in Tanzania, South Africa, Thailand and Central Asia.

The *New Bridges* series is also simple to purchase and transport. Although the series is available in hard-copy, spiral-bound texts, the publisher, Interlink Resources International, also offers bulk licenses for electronic editions. My teachers who travel internationally can take the entire series on a flash drive and print the texts locally for a fraction of the cost of transporting heavy texts.



After a year of working through these texts with my teachers and their students, now when I hear the question: "Can you recommend a text. . .?" I

unhesitatingly recommend *New Bridges*. f

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Direct book orders to:
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New Bridges

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