The Read to Speak "Seed" Project
Stewards Pooi Tun Secondary School 2023/24
Enhancing Speaking Lessons through Theme-based Projects
Mr Nathan Wofford, NET

Objectives
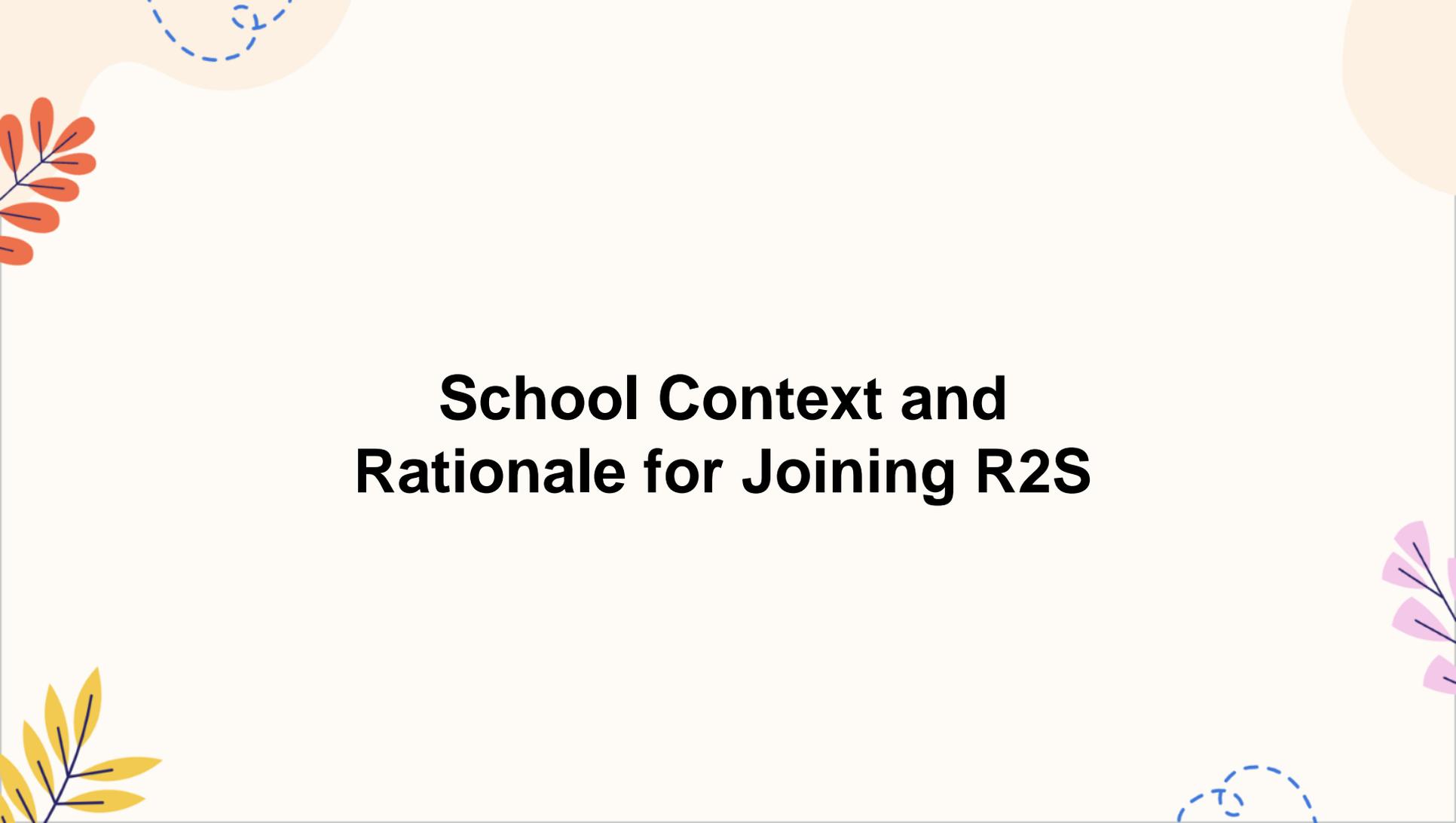
In this session, you will:

- learn about how we enhanced our speaking lessons through designing theme-based projects;

- see samples of student work that illustrate their learning; and

- hear about what we are doing this year to build on the R2S project.

School Context and Rationale for Joining R2S

School Context

- Band 2 school in Wong Tai Sin
- Co-ed
- CMI
- The current English level of new F1 students has been affected by various circumstances.

Rationale for Joining the 'Seed' Project

- Develop Ss' confidence in speaking English

- Design speaking lessons that integrate four language skills

- Enhance speaking lessons by engaging Ss in authentic theme-based projects

- Align speaking lessons with the English Language Curriculum

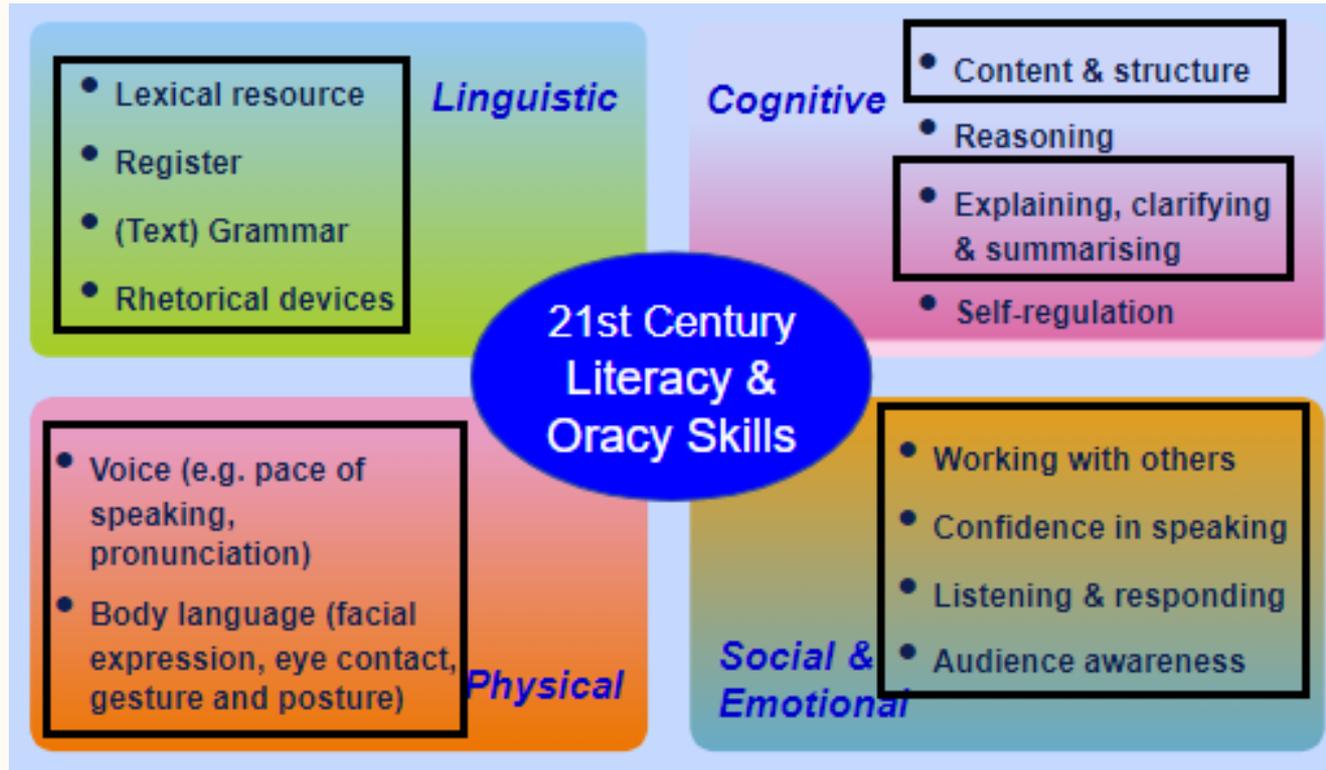- Increase collaboration between the English panel members and the NET

Project Implementation

Why Theme-based Projects?

- Engage students in authentic learning tasks

- Create fun learning opportunities

- Enhance students' creativity and collaboration skills

- Make good use of technology in speaking lessons

- Develop students' confidence in speaking English

The R2S Framework

Linguistic
- Lexical resource
- Register
- (Text) Grammar
- Rhetorical devices

Cognitive
- Content & structure
- Reasoning
- Explaining, clarifying & summarising
- Self-regulation

21st Century Literacy & Oracy Skills

Physical
- Voice (e.g. pace of speaking, pronunciation)
- Body language (facial expression, eye contact, gesture and posture)

Social & Emotional
- Working with others
- Confidence in speaking
- Listening & responding
- Audience awareness

Adapted from The Oracy Skills Framework, Voice 21 and Oracy Cambridge

Identifying the Objectives

Unit 3: A foodie's world
Theme: Teenage life/Food
Level: S1

Learning Objectives:
Students are expected to develop the following physical, linguistic, cognitive, social and emotional skills that enable effective communication.

Linguistic	Cognitive
Ss will be able to ● use Wh- questions to ask others about their favorite comfort foods ● use language for group interaction, including introducing a new topic, stating an opinion, giving reasons and examples, agreeing and disagreeing, inviting others to speak, and summing up. ● use descriptive language to talk about their favorite street food, e.g. adjectives, comparatives, superlatives, similes ● use sequencing and signposting words, e.g. the first question is…, the next topic for discussion is…, Let's talk about… ● use quantity words, e.g. a few/a little, some, many/much and countable and uncountable nouns when talking about food	Ss will be able to ● listen and take notes on the main ideas and specific information in a podcast discussion about comfort foods ● discuss their favorite Hong Kong street foods in small groups ● plan, draft and write a script for a podcast on street food ● present and record a podcast on street food in Hong Kong
Physical	Social & Emotional
Ss will be able to ● speak audibly (i.e. with appropriate voice projection) ● speak with clarity (i.e. with intelligible pronunciation) ● speak with fluency (i.e. with appropriate stress and intonation) ● speak with expression (i.e. with feeling/emotion)	Ss will be able to ● demonstrate individual accountability ● show respect to other members of the group ● follow directions

Texts:
● Model podcast + transcript

Designing the Lessons

Term 1: Comfort Food

Goal: Develop a podcast

- Listen to sample podcasts
- Interview classmates
- Write a script
- Record the podcast

Term 2: Festivals

Goal: Create a presentation

- Research information
- Write a script
- Design visual aids
- Conduct a presentation

Students use the language taught in their General English lessons.

Scaffolding the lessons

- Creating a model
- Using the model to teach the target text type / genre
- Creating the templates to scaffold student learning according to their ability
- Supporting students to plan their projects

The Model Podcast

[Opening Music]

Nathan: Welcome to the "Let's Talk" podcast, where we have fun conversations about things we all love. Today, we have a yummy topic to discuss – comfort food! It's something we all enjoy, and it makes us feel happy. I'm one of your hosts Nathan.

Stephen: And I'm Stephen, your co-host. We're so glad you're here with us. It's my pleasure to introduce our 2 special guests this week, Alice and Cherry. Welcome to both of you.Would you like to say hi to our listeners?

Alice: Hi, everyone! I'm Alice, and I'm very happy to be here to talk about comfort food with you all.

Cherry: Hello! I'm Cherry, and I'm excited too. Comfort food is something we all enjoy, and it's going to be lots of fun to talk about it.

Stephen: We're really excited to have you both here, Alice and Cherry. Let's start our delicious conversation, shall we? Our first question for everyone is: What does comfort food mean to you?

Alice: Hmm. Comfort food makes me think of home. It's the food that reminds me of family and friends. It makes me feel all warm inside.

Cherry: Yes! Comfort food is like a friend that cheers me up when I'm feeling down . It's the food that makes me feel good and loved.

Nathan: So it sounds like for Alice, comfort food is a taste of home. Whereas for Cherry, comfort food is like a friend in a time of need. Does that sound right?

The Podcast Templates

Podcast Outline

Class/Group No. _____

Name of podcast: _____

Title of episode: _____

Hosts: _____

Guests: _____

Podcast cover

No.	Outline of Podcast	Discussion Language
	Music intro (10 secs and fade)	
1.	**Introduction:** •	Welcome… Let's begin. / Let's get started. My name is…/ I'm… I would like to introduce…/ It's my pleasure to introduce… We need to discuss / Today, we are going to discuss…
2.	**First question / topic for discussion:** •	The first/ next/ final question is… Let's move on, shall we? Now let's discuss… I think that… It seems to me…

Model Podcast Outline

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Podcast cover

No.	Outline of Podcast	Discussion Language
	Music intro (10 secs and fade)	
1.	**Introduction:** • Welcome 　○ (Name of podcast) • My name is_____, 　○ And i am _____ 　　■ We are your hosts for your favorite podcast _____(podcast name) • Tell us what you're going to talk about 　○ Today we are going to talk about _____ • We have 2 special guests joining us _____ and _____. Welcome!	Welcome… Let's begin. / Let's get started. My name is…/ I'm… I would like to introduce…/ It's my pleasure to introduce… We need to discuss / Today, we are going to discuss…
2.	**First question / topic for discussion:** •	The first/ next/ final question is… Let's move on, shall we? Now let's discuss… I think that… It seems to me… To be honest…

The Model Presentation

Thanksgiving Script

Slide 1: Title Slide [Nathan] Slides 1
- Title: Thanksgiving: A Festival of Thanks
- Introduction: Hello everyone! Today, we're going to talk about a special holiday called Thanksgiving. It's a time when people come together to give thanks for the good things in their lives. Let's learn more about it!

Slide 2: History of Thanksgiving [Nathan] Slides 2-7
- In the year 1620, a little ship came to America. It was called the Mayflower. There were one hundred people on the ship. **(2)**
- The people were called Pilgrims. They came from England. **(3)**
- The first winter in America was very cold. The Pilgrims did not have much food. They did not have warm clothes. Many of them got sick and died. **(4)**
- The friendly Native Americans came to help. They showed the Pilgrims how to grow pumpkin, corn and other vegetables. **(5)**
- When autumn came, the Pilgrims were very happy because they had a lot of food for winter. **(6)**
- To thank the Native Americans, the Pilgrims made a big dinner and invited everyone to eat with them. This was the first Thanksgiving in America. **(7)**

Slide 3: How Thanksgiving is Celebrated [Stephen] Slides 8-10
- Nowadays, Thanksgiving is celebrated on the fourth Thursday of November in the US. **(8)**
- It is a time for families and friends to come together. **(8)**

Thanksgiving

A Festival of Thanks

The Presentation Templates

Topic 1 Background and History (Student 2) [Search: Background and History of *your holiday*]

_____

_____

_____

Topic 2 Why It's Important (Student 3) [Search: Why is *your holiday* important]

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_____

_____

Topic 3 How People Celebrate (Student 4) [Search: How people celebrate *your holiday*]

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Conclusion

_____

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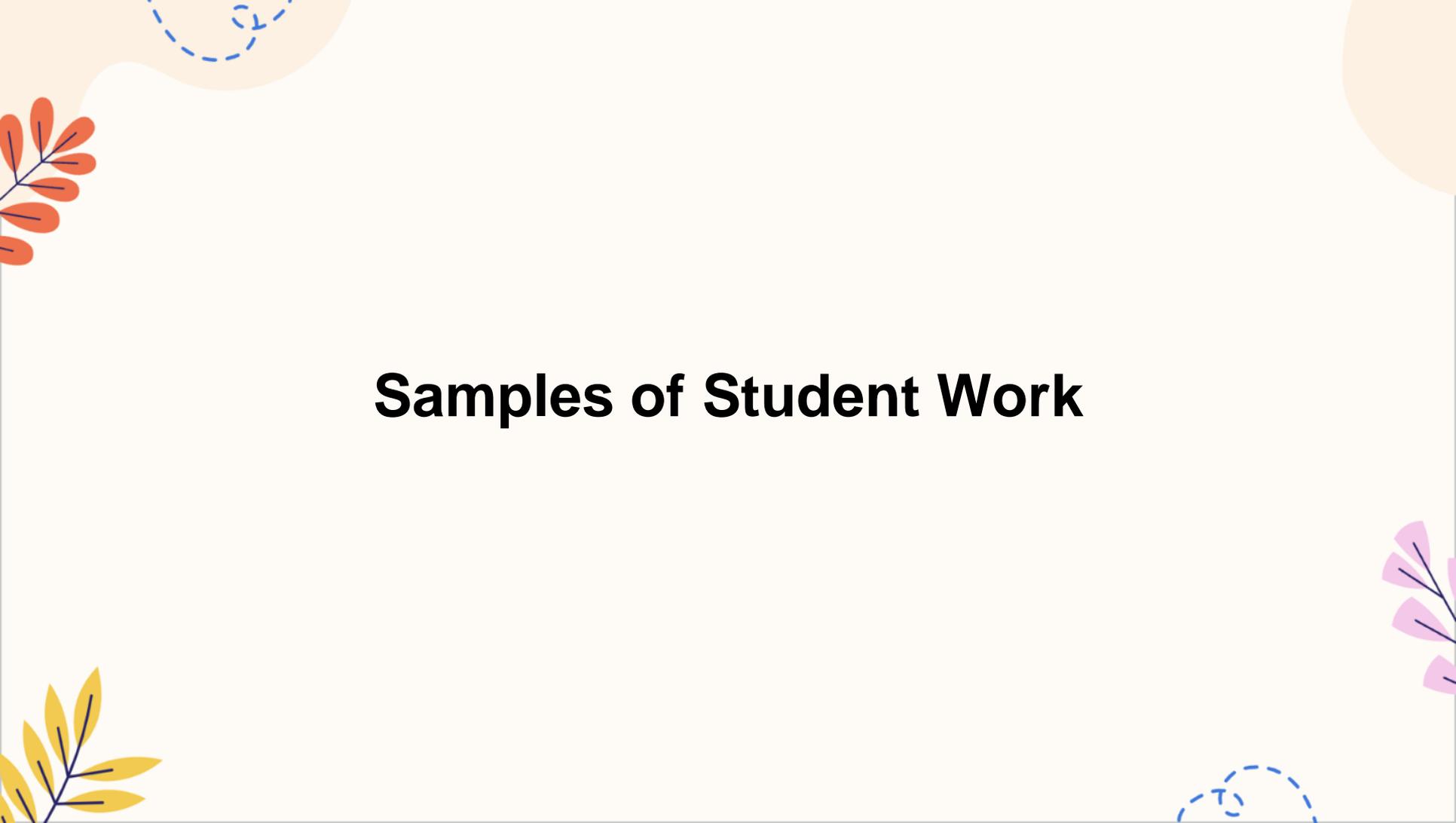
Samples of Student Work

Podcast on Comfort Food

The Fantastic 4

Presentation Notes

Slide 1: Title:

Presenter: Hi, everyone! Today, we're talking about a fun festival celebrated in Thailand called "Songkran," also known as the Thai Water Festival.

Slide 2: Title: Background and History

Presenter: Songkran is a traditional festival in Thailand that celebrates the Thai New Year. It has a special meaning in our culture and has been celebrated for a long time.

Slide 1: Title: La Tomatina: The Spanish Tomato Festival

Hello, everyone! Today we're talking about an exciting festival in Spain called "La Tomatina," The Tomato Festival.

Slide 2: Title: Background and History

La Tomatina is a famous festival in Buñol, Spain. It started in 1945 when people playfully threw tomatoes at a friend. Now, it happens every year on the last Wednesday of August.

Presentation Slides on *Songkran*

Background and history

Traditional customs

Presentation Slide on *La Tomatina*

Outcomes & Evaluation

Reflections

- Positive student feedback received
- Aligning speaking and General English lessons enhanced student learning
- Speaking lessons were more engaging and enjoyable.

Challenges

For students:

- Lack of confidence in speaking English
- Limited experience in conducting presentations

For teachers:

- Limited lesson time with each group of students
- The change of focus from phonics to oracy skills development

The Way Forward

Based on student feedback, we made changes to the following for 2024/25:

- Sequence of the target text type / genre
- Materials - refining and expanding
- Time for practice

Final thoughts

As a NET, my goal is to:

- create a culture of speaking English on campus;
- integrate phonics into the English language curriculum; and
- maintain alignment of the speaking lessons with the General English lessons.
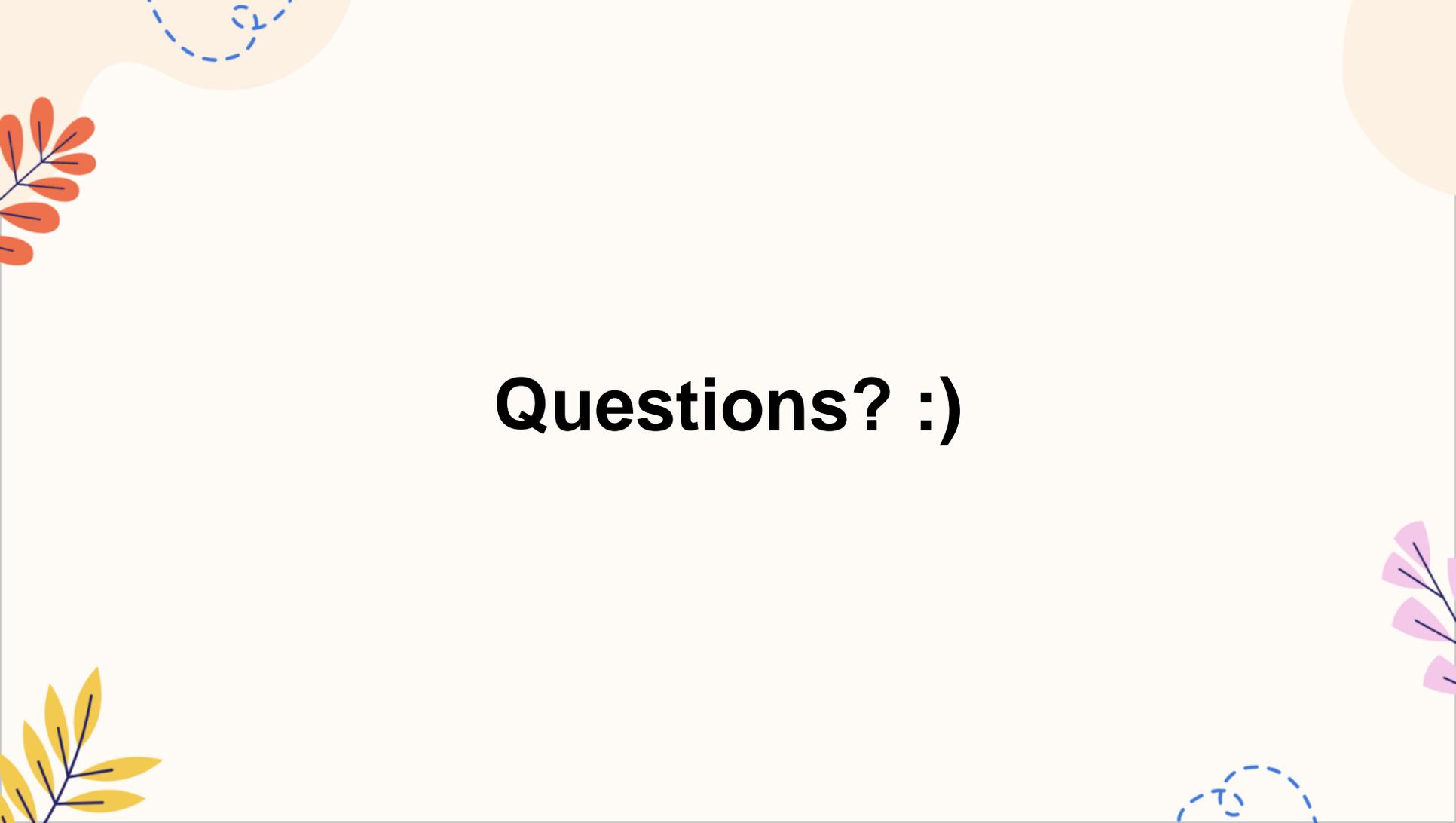
Questions? :)

Thank you

Please feel free to reach out if you have questions or suggestions.

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