

CLASS DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDATION: 4th grade

COURSE: Croatian language

TEACHING AREA: Culture and media

TEACHING UNIT: *A Ship in the Bottle*

CLASS TYPE: Analysis of a short fiction film

DURATION OF A TEACHING UNIT: 45 minutes

***A SHIP IN THE BOTTLE* (Blank Film Association, Zagreb, 2020)**

MOTIVATION

Conversation with the students

1. How would you react if you had to move to another city in Croatia and leave your friends?
2. Is running from a problem or a negative experience the best solution?
3. Who would you talk to if something bad happened to you? Would you confide in anyone at all or would you keep it all to yourself?
4. Is keeping traumatic experiences to yourself ever a good thing?

THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE FILM

You will watch a short film *A Ship in the Bottle* produced by Blank Film Association from Zagreb.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR WATCHING

Pay attention to how Noa's trauma is gradually introduced into the film.

Aside from the protagonist verbalizing it, how else is Borna, Noa and Luna's separation in high school emphasized?

Pay attention to the editing in the film.

Pay attention to the scene of the conversation with the mother.

In which city does the film begin, and in which does it end? Why? What is the metaphorical meaning of these locations?

When does the title of the film appear?

WATCHING OF THE FILM

EXPRESSION OF STUDENT IMPRESSIONS

Did you like the film? Why?

How would you react in Noa's situation?

Would you confide in your friends, a girlfriend/boyfriend or your parents?

How did you feel at the end of the film?

What is your interpretation of the film's ending?

ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION OF THE FILM

1. How are Noah's dreams portrayed at the beginning of the film?

Through short shots appearing over a frame of Noah sleeping. These are blended shots.

2. When is this blending process repeated?

In history class.

3. What kind of shot is used when Noa wakes up?

An extreme close-up of his eyes to show that Noa was having a nightmare.

4. What do we call a kind of shot that follows the professor and Noa when they walk down the hall and enter the classroom?

A tracking shot.

5. How does the class react when Noa introduces himself?

The boys in the class make jokes at his expense.

6. How is the scene of Noa's dinner with his mother portrayed? What is achieved by such framing?

They were not shot together (for example, in a two shot) and they are in semi-subjective shots. Filming them this way, with the shots of Noa and his mother alternating, a dynamic rhythm was achieved, and the distance between them and the fact they don't understand each other were emphasized.

7. How is the viewer first introduced to an event that constantly haunts Noa?

Noah is sitting on a park bench and calls his friend Luna, then we see a subjective shot of him watching the people in the park and then a cut follows.

8. What kind of shot is Noa in when Nika asks him if he misses his friends from Split?

In a close-up to emphasize his emotions.

9. What kind of shot are Noa and Nika in when she asks him questions about his friends?

Both are in close-up shots.

10. Unlike the scene with the mother in which the two of them were not filmed together, how were Noa and Nika filmed?

They were filmed in a two shot (two characters in the same shot), which indicates connection and trust.

11. What kind of music accompanies the beginning of Noa's story of a traumatic event?

Non-diegetic melancholic music.

12. What kind of shot is Noa in when he starts talking about his friends from Split?

He's in a shot that's out of focus.

13. Aside from Noa directly saying that he, Borna and Luna separated in high school, how is this emphasized through filmic means of expression?

With drone footage.

14. What's the music at the nightclub where Luna celebrated her birthday like?

Diegetic music.

15. What is the camera like in the scenes from the nightclub?

Hand-held camera that achieves realism.

16. Eventually Borna appears next to Noa again. What is that attributed to and how was Borna introduced, i.e. what kind of shot is used before he is shown?

This is attributed to Noa's imagination, and before Borna is shown, their hands while greeting each other are shown in an extreme close-up.

17. In which city does the film begin, and in which does it end? Why? How can that be interpreted?

At the beginning of the film, the plot is located in Zagreb, and at the end in Split. This means that Noa has moved on with his life and that Split no longer represents a traumatic place for him. Although at the beginning he went to Zagreb so that he would not have to face Borna's death, in the end, after visiting Split, he still faces this event and is liberated.

18. When does the title of the film appear?

The title appears at the end of the film.

EVALUATION

- monitoring student activities while watching a film
- checking the understanding of the film by asking directed questions
- teaching sheet (quiz)

THE TEACHING SHEET (QUIZ) is available on the Film EDUcation website.