

**CLASS DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDATION:** 4th grade

**COURSE:** Croatian language

**TEACHING AREA:** Culture and media

**TEACHING UNIT:** *Lenuzzi, Self-portrait*

**CLASS TYPE:** Analysis of short documentary films

**DURATION OF A TEACHING UNIT:** 45 minutes

### **LENUZZI (Marina Jurčić, Cinema Club Karlovac, 2021.)**

#### **MOTIVATION**

Conversation with the students

1. Describe a hobby of yours.
2. Do you collect anything? Why?
3. Where do you store your memories?
4. What first comes to mind when someone says laboratory?

#### **THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE FILM**

You will watch a short film *Lenuzzi* produced by Cinema Club Karlovac.

#### **INSTRUCTIONS FOR WATCHING**

1. Pay attention to the structure of the film. How does it begin and how does it end?
2. Pay attention to what kinds of shots prevail in the film.
3. Pay attention to how and when music appears in the film.
4. Try to determine what type of documentary this is.

#### **WATCHING OF THE FILM**

#### **EXPRESSION OF STUDENT IMPRESSIONS**

Did you like the film? Why?

How much have you learned about the protagonist in this short amount of time?

## ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION OF THE FILM

### 1. What do we see and hear first in the film?

We hear music, a door opens in a full shot, a young man enters his room and sits down at a table. Off-screen we hear the young man introduce himself and begin to list his hobbies and interests.

### 2. What is the music like at the beginning of the film? How long does it last?

The music is non-diegetic, which means that its source is not visible in the scene, i.e. not visible in the frame. We hear music throughout the first part of the film (although it quiets down during the dialogue), until the young man plays a vinyl record after which we hear the music from the record.

### 3. If we were to divide this film into parts or scenes, how many are there in this film?

There are two scenes in the film.

### 4. What happens in each scene? Where do they take place?

The first takes place in a room, where Leon shows off his stones, 3D sculptures, pets and records. The second scene takes place in Leon's lab in the basement.

### 5. What do we call the angle from which Leon was filmed coming down the stairs into the basement?

A high angle, or a Birds-Eye-View shot.

### 6. What do we call the music coming from the record?

The music from the record is diegetic (ambient), because we see its source in the scene.

### 7. When does Leon speak into the camera?

In the first scene, Leon sits on the bed in a medium close-up and talks to the camera; he explains how he got his pets, the Stanić family (Vietnamese twig insects). Also, in the lab, Leon talks directly to the camera about how he created his lab and what he uses it for.

### 8. What do we call the kind of shot that shows the images from a microscope?

An extreme close-up shot.

### 9. What is the camera like in the film?

The camera is static, i.e. unmoving, fixed to a tripod.

## 10. How does the film end?

In a medium shot, we see Leon walk out of his lab and close the door. He turns off the light in the hallway and exits through another door. This way, the film starts and ends with the same procedure. The film starts with darkness and a door opening, and ends with a door closing and darkness prevailing.

***SELF-PORTRAIT* (Marija Mihaljević, Private Gymnasium of Arts, Zagreb, 2021.)**

## MOTIVATION

Conversation with the students

1. What do you know about the nutrition problems of the youth?
2. What beauty standards do the media impose on us and how does that affect young people?
3. Do you keep a diary?
4. Do you have dark thoughts sometimes?
5. Do you share such thoughts with people close to you?

## THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE FILM

You will watch a short film *Self-portrait* directed by Marija Mihaljević, produced by the Private Gymnasium of Arts from Zagreb.

## INSTRUCTIONS FOR WATCHING

1. How are nutrition problems visually depicted? Which of the protagonist's emotions towards food and her own body prevails?
2. From whose perspective do we see this story?
3. Pay attention to the shots in the film; what kinds of shots are they, how long are the shots?
4. What do we hear in the film?
5. Which filming techniques are present in the film?
6. What is the name of the animation technique used in this film?
7. What makes this film a documentary?
8. Try to determine what type of documentary this is.

## WATCHING OF THE FILM

### EXPRESSION OF STUDENT IMPRESSIONS

Did you like the film? Why?

What was shocking about this film? Why?

### ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION OF THE FILM

#### 1. How does the film start?

The film begins with a voice from the dark telling us its story. After a cut, we see an extreme close-up of someone's cheek and make-up being applied to it, an extreme close-up of lipstick and lips, an eye and mascara. In a close-up, a girl takes off a towel wrapped around her head. After a cut, the same girl dries her hair in a medium shot.

#### 2. Why do we assume that the voice we hear belongs to the girl we are watching?

The viewer makes this assumption because it is the only logical conclusion. The girl is the only person we see in the film, the voice is the only one we hear in the film. We want to connect them. However, the voice we hear does not necessarily need to belong to the girl we see. We never find out if the girl we see is an actress or the film's author.

#### 3. What do we call the overlapping of two or more whole images of a scene in the same frame?

We call it double exposure.

#### 4. When do we see the protagonist in double exposure?

In a medium shot while she's drying her hair. Also, when she turns to the camera in a medium shot. The rotation movement was repeated several times and made with double exposure. It appears multilayered.

#### 5. How is the film structured and how is that indicated through editing?

The film is structured into chapters separated by black frames. One chapter ends with a cut to black, and after another cut, a new chapter begins.

#### 6. How many parts can this film be divided into?

Three.

**7. What kinds of shots prevail?**

Extreme close-ups of objects and medium shots of the protagonist.

**8. Besides the girl's voice, what other sound do we hear in the film?**

The sound of eating snacks and at the end the sound of a clock ticking.

**9. What happens in the frame in which a lamp on the table is visible, when the author utters the word *darkness*?**

The light turns on.

**10. Which shot is repeated?**

A medium shot of the protagonist shaking her head towards the camera.

**11. What is different in that shot when it's repeated the second time?**

At the beginning of the film, the movement is followed by a cut to black. At the end of the film, this movement is performed in reverse order. She moves away from the camera, and after a cut, we see the protagonist's new hairstyle, i.e. her transformation.

**12. What animation technique is used in this film?**

Animation of objects, animation of photographs, pixilation.

**13. What personal problem is the protagonist of the film talking about?**

A nutrition problem, her hospitalization and treatment.

**14. What makes this film a documentary?**

The title indicates that this is the author's personal confession (*Self-portrait*). In this way, the film seeks to show real events, i.e. events that really happened. The film strives towards truthfulness and a personal depiction of the world.

**15. What sub genre of documentary is this? Why?**

*Self-Portrait* is a poetic documentary. It is poetic because it offers a personal expression of its own sense of reality. It uses visual stylizations to achieve a poetic effect.

## 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.**