

CLASS DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDATION: 6th grade

COURSE: Croatian language

TEACHING AREA: Culture and media

TEACHING UNIT: *A True Illusion; Legend, trailer; World*

CLASS TYPE: Analysis of short experimental and promo films

DURATION OF A TEACHING UNIT: 45 minutes

A TRUE ILLUSION (Franjo Krežma Elementary School, 2021.)

MOTIVATION

Conversation with the students

1. Does a film have to have a story to evoke emotions and leave an impression?
2. Can a film be made of animated paintings?
3. What do you know about experimental film?

THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE FILM

You will watch a short film *A True Illusion* by Dorijan Čaušić from Franjo Krežma Elementary School.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR WATCHING

1. Determine which geometric shapes appear during the film.
2. Try to determine which technique was used to make the film.
3. How does music influence the atmosphere in the film?
4. Try to explain the name of the film - what is the illusion in this film and how can it be true?

WATCHING OF THE FILM

EXPRESSION OF STUDENT IMPRESSIONS

Did you like the film? Why?

What emotions did it evoke in you?

ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION OF THE FILM

1. Describe the structure of the film.

The film has three major parts. One is in the garden, the other is on the street, the third is in the apartment. During all three parts we can hear dominant non-diegetic music playing and geometric shapes appearing. The film has no story.

2. What do we call the type of editing transition used between the different parts of the film?

We call it a dissolve. To the rhythm of the music, with more and more geometric shapes appearing, one background dissolves into another.

3. When do we see the name of the film?

At the very beginning of the film.

4. What can we hear in the film?

We only hear non-diegetic music.

5. What is the relationship between the music (its rhythm) and the exchange of shots and shapes?

The musical background, i.e. its rhythm, is harmonious with the appearance and movement of geometric shapes within the shots, but also with the exchange of shots. So, the way this film is edited is called rhythmic editing.

6. What kind of shot is used most in this film?

An extreme wide shot.

7. Which animation technique was used to make this film?

The film was made with stop-animation of objects and photographs, as well as stop-animation of the actor, called pixilation. It was also shot in black and white.

8. What do we call the apparent overlapping of two or more whole images of a scene in the same shot?

We call it double exposure.

9. Given the title, the music, and what we see in the film, what would be the idea or thought that this film examines?

The film explores different aspects of reality. Through double exposure, the overlapping of different visuals and the accompanying music, the film examines the limits of reality.

10. What type of film is this and why?

This is an experimental film. It has no narration, and its structure is based on associative and rhythmic editing. It is different from 'typical' films, it explores the media properties of film in an original and inventive way and wants to filmically, or audio-visually evoke or examine certain ideas, states and emotions.

LEGEND, TRAILER (Ljubo Babić Elementary school, Jastrebarsko, 2021.)

MOTIVATION

Conversation with the students

1. How do you choose which film to watch or book to read next?
2. What can make advertisements and trailers interesting?
3. Is reading making a comeback?
4. Can film help with that?

THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE FILM

You will watch a short promo film *Legend, Trailer* produced by Ljubo Babić Elementary school from Jastrebarsko.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR WATCHING

1. Pay attention to the structure of the film. How long are individual shots and are they connected into a single story?
2. At what point in the film is it clear to us what kind of film we are watching?
3. What filmic means of expression are used to tempt the viewer to want to read the book that's in the name of the film?

WATCHING OF THE FILM

EXPRESSION OF STUDENT IMPRESSIONS

Did you like the film? Why?

Did this promo film make you interested to read the book?

ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION OF THE FILM

1. How does the film start?

The film begins with a wipe that reveals an extreme wide shot in which we see a girl walking towards the camera. Non-diegetic jazz music that suggests intrigue plays loudly in the background from the beginning.

2. What kinds of shots follow?

The shots that follow are short, mostly extreme close-ups (the medallion) or extreme wide shots of the protagonist from behind. The goal is to captivate the viewer's attention as much as possible, but at the same time, the viewer never gets all the information.

3. Whose voice do we hear and what is its purpose?

We hear a female narrator's voice introducing the book. In this short film, that voice utters one sentence and one question that should intrigue the viewer.

4. What words does the narrator say slowly? Why?

The narrator speaks slowly and emphasizes key words that suggest action and intrigue ("rescuing, revenge, twist, secrets"). Each of these words is followed by several shots that are meant to represent them (for example, next to the word "revenge" we see a gun in the shot).

5. What do we call the editing transition of the image disappearing into darkness?

Fade out.

6. What purpose does the shot of a glass breaking have at the end?

It points to conflict, violence, and intrigue. The slow-motion shots of shards of glass add to the beauty of the scene and visually depict the beauty in the book as well.

7. At what point does the viewer realize what the film is about?

At the very end, when a photo of the book is visible, it becomes clear to the viewer that they watched a promotional video and a short description/plot of the novel *Legend* by Marie Lu.

WORLD (Photo Cinema club Ivanovec, Ivanovec, 2021.)

MOTIVATION

Conversation with the students

1. When someone says 'world', what's the first thing you think of?
2. How would you best describe the Earth/world?
3. What are you most afraid of when it comes to the future of our planet?

THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE FILM

You will watch a short freestyle film *World* produced by Photo Cinema club Ivanovec from Ivanovec.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR WATCHING

1. Pay attention to the variety of shots in the film. Try to determine what connects them as a whole.
2. Who is the narrator in this film? Whose voice do we hear?
3. Pay attention to the music in the film and see how it contributes to the mood.

WATCHING OF THE FILM

EXPRESSION OF STUDENT IMPRESSIONS

Did you like the film? Why?

ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION OF THE FILM

1. How does the film start?

The film opens with the title *World*, whose font suggests something epic/large in scale. After the title, you can see the globe rotating around its axis and hear an omniscient narrator in English, the voice of God who introduces us to the world.

2. What kinds of shots are used at the beginning of the film?

At the beginning, extreme wide shots or wide shots predominate the film. These are impressive shots that show the beauty of the world.

3. What is the structure like in this part of the film?

This film is organized into three parts. The first part shows the world in wide shots, the second in extreme close-ups, and the third announces the future.

4. How are different parts of the film separated?

They are separated by black shots. When each part ends, there is a cut to black. Although all three parts are connected by the same voice and the same music playing in the background, they are separated by blackness.

5. What do we call the kind of shot that prevails in the second part (when the hands take the notebook)?

An extreme close-up.

6. Is an extreme angle used at one point in the film?

In the first part, while the world is being shown, at one point we see an extreme wide shot of the forest at an extremely low angle.

7. Are there any dynamic shots in the film?

The second shot in the film is dynamic, the camera is moving through the forest.

8. What kind of future does the film predict for planet Earth?

It predicts a future in which the Earth will freeze over. It anticipates a great winter in which the Earth will become a white ball (as shown in the film).

9. What kind of music do we hear in the film and how does it affect the atmosphere?

We hear melancholy, sentimental music that creates a wistful, gloomy atmosphere.

10. What type of film is this and why?

This is an experimental film. It does not have a clear narrative, and the associatively connected shots evoke certain emotions related to the world.

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.