CLASS DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDATION: 2nd grade

COURSE: Croatian language

TEACHING AREA: Culture and media

TEACHING UNIT: *Little Gestures, Stick Hit The Fan*

CLASS TYPE: Analysis of short fiction films

DURATION OF A TEACHING UNIT: 45 minutes

LITTLE GESTURES (Escape Studios, United Kingdom, 2021.)

MOTIVATION

Conversation with the students

1. What are your first associations to the word *hand*?
2. What do we use our hands for?
3. In which professions are hands crucial?
4. For which arts are hands important?

THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE FILM

You will watch a short film *Little Gestures* produced by Escape Studios from the United Kingdom.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR WATCHING

1. Pay attention to the shots of the doll and the old man.
2. What type of film is this?
3. What's the set design like? What can we learn about the old man based on the set design?

WATCHING OF THE FILM

EXPRESSION OF STUDENT IMPRESSIONS

Did you like the film? Why?

Can you interpret the name of the film?

Which part of the film did you particularly like?

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ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION OF THE FILM

1. **How does the film start? What do we see and hear?**

   The film starts with a black shot. We can hear the sound of writing and crumpling paper, as well as slow, melancholic non-diegetic music.

2. **What do we see in the next shot? Which editing transition is used between those two shots?**

   A fade in is used because the black shot fades into a shot of the man's back.

3. **What's in the following shot?**

   A cut is followed by an extreme close-up of what the man is doing - drawing with charcoal.

4. **At what point do we find out that the man can't draw?**

   This is revealed in the next shot where we see one of his hands shaking and the other trying to stop it.

5. **Which editing transition is used to switch from the shot of the animated doll picking up the charcoal to the shot of the old man showing him the direction of drawing?**

   A dissolve.

6. **In what kinds of shots are the old man and the animated doll?**

   Extreme close-ups of the old man's hands predominate throughout the film. The viewer doesn't see the face of the old man and doesn't learn his identity in any scene of the film. At the end his face is only partially revealed because it was filmed from profile and a low angle. On the other hand, the animated doll appears in almost all kinds of shots - a full shot and medium full shot, and at the end we also see an extreme close-up of his hands.

7. **How does the change in music contribute to the film's story?**

   At the beginning of the film, the non-diegetic music is melancholic and sad, and when the animated doll starts helping the old man, the music becomes more cheerful.

8. **What's the set design like? What can we learn about the old man based on the set design?**

   Warm and natural colors prevail. Based on the set design, we can find out the old man is a painter (pictures on the wall, an easel, many pencils for drawing, a night lamp, brushes).

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9. **We can see elements of two types of films here. Which ones?**

   The elements of fiction film and elements of animated film (puppet animation).

STICK HIT THE FAN (Nina Damjanović, Bacači Sjenki, Rijeka, 2021.)

MOTIVATION

Conversation with the students

1. Did you ever find yourself not being able to stop snacking (for example, on salted sticks, chips, peanuts, etc.)?
2. Do you like salted sticks? When do you eat them most often?
3. Have you ever had a food accident at school?
4. Did others notice the accident? How did you react? How did others react?
5. Can you tell us how salted sticks can cause a mess or chaos in the office or at school?

THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE FILM

You will watch a short film *Stick Hit The Fan by* Nina Damjanović produced by Bacači Sjenki from Rijeka.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR WATCHING

1. Pay attention to the first shots in the film. What do we see and hear?
2. How is it emphasized that salted sticks are the leitmotif of the film?
3. Pay attention to which element of sound is completely missing.
4. Pay attention to how the fall of the last salted stick is shown.

WATCHING OF THE FILM

EXPRESSION OF STUDENT IMPRESSIONS

Did you like the film? Why?

What did you like in particular?

Did anything surprise you?

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ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION OF THE FILM

1. **What do we see and hear in the first shots of the film?**

   In the first shot of the film, the leitmotif of the film, salted sticks, is introduced. A few short shots follow, in which a hand picks up the salted sticks, while we hear noises from the office (for example, the sound of the telephone and the sound of typing), the noises of the box containing the salted sticks opening, and the sound of the sticks being picked up.

2. **Which shot follows the first few shots of the salted sticks?**

   An extreme close-up shot of a person with a salted stick in their mouth, and we hear them nibbling on it.

3. **Can you pinpoint a subjective shot in the office?**

   There is a subjective shot of the protagonist looking at her colleagues who are constantly warning her that they are distracted by her nibbling on salted sticks.

4. **How is the fall of the last salted stick shown?**

   Through a slow-motion shot from a high angle, which is actually the protagonist's subjective shot. At the same time, the sound of the salted stick falling and breaking is accentuated.

5. **What editing transition is present in the shots of the stick falling?**

   Dissolve.

6. **Which element of sound is completely missing?**

   Voices. The characters do not communicate verbally (through voice), but only non-verbally (through gestures and facial expressions).

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.

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