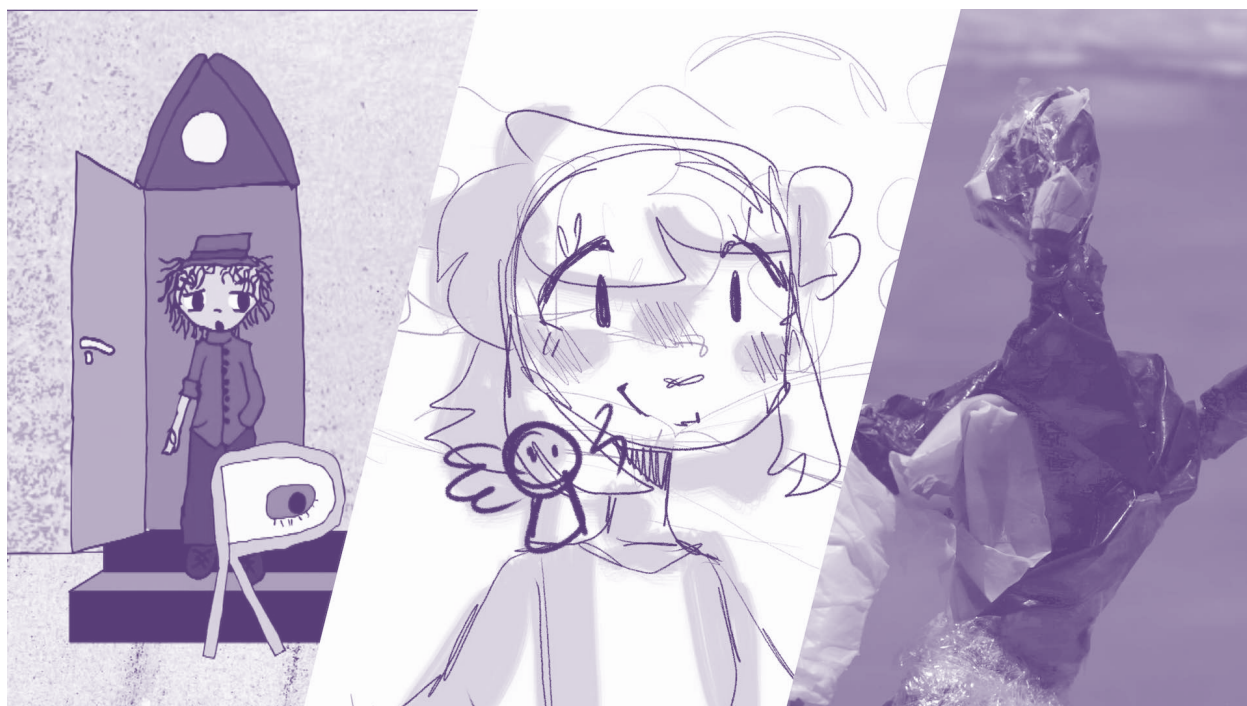


Educational material

Mischievous Monday / Tea for Two / Trash Invasion



CLASS DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDATION: 5th grade
TEACHING AREA: Culture and media
TEACHING UNIT: *Mischievous Monday / Tea for Two / Trash Invasion*
CLASS TYPE: Analysis of short animated films
DURATION OF A TEACHING UNIT: 45 minutes

MISCHIEVOUS MONDAY

School of Animated Film Čakovec, 2023

MOTIVATION

Conversation with the students

1. What is your favorite day of the week? Why?
2. Why do people generally dislike Monday?
3. What could the film *Mischievous Monday* be about?

THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE FILM

You will watch a short animated film *Mischievous Monday* produced by the School of Animated Film Čakovec, made in 2023.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR WATCHING

1. Pay attention to who leads us through the film. How would you describe the main character?
2. Pay attention to the sound in the film. Remember that the sound consists of speech, noises, and music. What elements of sound do you hear in this film?
3. What kinds of shots predominate in the film? What kind of shot is used most often? Why?

WATCHING THE FILM

EXPRESSION OF STUDENT IMPRESSIONS

Did you like this film? Why?

After watching this film, do you like Monday more than you used to?

ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION OF THE FILM

1. Describe the beginning of the film. What do you see and hear first?

The film begins with the logo of the production company, the School of Animated Film Čakovec, followed by the name of the film, written in cheerful, colorful letters, first in Croatian and then in English. We hear cheerful music, which is non-diegetic because its source is not present in the scene we are watching.

2. Describe the first shots after we see the name of the film.

After the opening credits, there is a shot of a room in whose foreground is a table with a calendar on it. A calendar page turns and with a cut we switch to a closer shot showing the month of February. We hear snoring, and then we see an extreme close-up of the tenth day of February, where the protagonist of the film, the mischievous letter P, is located.

An extreme close-up is a kind of shot that shows only part of an object, and in this example, only one field on the calendar that shows the letter P.

3. How is the protagonist of the film emphasized with sound? What does this noise suggest?

When the mischievous letter P appears in the calendar for the first time, a rooster crows, symbolically representing awakening, i.e. the beginning of a new day (the mischievous letter P woke up).

4. What kinds of shots prevail in the film? Which spaces are shown and in what kinds of shots?

Wide shots dominate: wide and extreme wide shots which best depict spaces. The mischievous letter P first walks down the street (a wide shot of the street), knocks on the doors of houses (wide shots of the houses) and knocks on a tree in a meadow (a wide shot of the meadow). We see the bird's room (an extreme wide shot of the room), the control tower and the airport (a wide shot of the control tower, an extreme wide shot of the airport). A wide shot and an extreme wide shot are kinds of shots whose scale is not a human but a certain space. Their goal is to depict the entire location the story is set in. The use of wide shots and extreme wide shots emphasizes the different environments and spaces in which the mischievous letter P looks for a friend.

5. Whose door does the letter P knock on? How do these characters react?

The letter P first knocks on a girl's door, then a boy's door. Then he goes into the countryside and knocks on a bird's nest, and finally goes to the control tower at an airport. No one wants to be friends with the mischievous letter P. The negative reactions of the characters are shown at the level of *mise-en-scène* (the girl closing the door) and stylized speech (the boy).

Mise-en-scène is a term that refers to the movement of characters through space in the scene itself, and thus, for example, includes the characters entering and leaving a particular scene, their movement through a particular space, sitting down, standing up, and the like.

6. From what angle (perspective) do we see the bird?

We see the bird from a high angle. The point of view in a film is defined, in principle, by the angle the lens axis makes with the visible or imagined horizontal line of the place of action.

7. Where does the mischievous P go after the bird's nest?

The mischievous letter P heads to the airport, enters the control tower, and almost causes a plane crash.

8. How does the flight controller get rid of the mischievous P?

The flight controller calls the letter U (utorak/Tuesday), which crumples up the mischievous letter P and returns it to its place (on the calendar).

9. Apart from non-diegetic music, what else do we hear in the film? Is there any speech?

Besides the non-diegetic music, which is present throughout almost the entire film, we hear certain noises and atmosphere. There is no speech in the film. There are a few realistic noises (planes and helicopters flying overhead, knocking on doors, doors closing, whistles) and more stylized noises (children's voices that imitate real sounds), such as the noise of radar and helicopters.

Some characters express themselves vocally, not using words, but speaking in a stylized manner, which is why we can conclude that the sound in this film consists of noises and music. The authors of this film lent their voices to some characters by successfully conveying the characters' emotions (rejection, fear, disapproval, relief) without using words.

TEA FOR TWO

Photo Cinema Video Club Zaprešić, 2023

MOTIVATION

Conversation with the students

1. Do you help animals? Which animals have you helped? How?
2. Should we help only domestic animals or should we help wild animals too?
3. What animals live in the forests of your area?

THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE FILM

You will watch a short animated film *Tea for Two* produced by Photo Cinema Video Club Zaprešić in 2023.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR WATCHING

1. Pay attention to what kind of shot is dominant in the film.
2. What animation technique is used in the film?
3. Pay attention to the cinematography. How are the characters highlighted in relation to the background?
4. Based on the film's name, who comes to tea?

WATCHING THE FILM

EXPRESSION OF STUDENT IMPRESSIONS

Did you like this film? Why?

What do you think, would you stop like the protagonist did?

ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION OF THE FILM

1. **How does the film start? What do we see and hear?**
The film starts with an extreme close-up shot of a window, accompanied by the sound of a bird chirping. Cheerful non-diegetic music begins, and the film's name appears to the beat of the music. The name disappears and the bird flies to the window.
2. **Which editing transitions are used when the name of the film is displayed?**

The name of the film appears with a cut. It's shown in black letters in Croatian and English, and the font imitates handwritten capital letters. The name gradually disappears, i.e. frame by frame it is less and less visible and "disappears" into the white of the shot. The editing transition in which the shot gradually darkens and "disappears", most often into black, is called a fade out, but as can be seen in this example, the fade can also end in another color.

3. What starts the plot?

A bird that flies to the window carries a letter in its beak: a boy invites a girl to tea.

4. What colors predominate in the film?

The film is made in black and white, but all the characters and some important objects are painted (partially or completely) in a soft red color to make them stand out against the background. Also, red symbolizes love and tenderness, which contributes to the characterization and the understanding of the film.

5. What animation technique was used to create the film?

The film uses the hand-drawn animation technique.

6. What kinds of shots dominate in the film? What is the camera like?

The camera is mostly static, placed on a tripod. The wide shot is dominant. A wide shot is a somewhat closer view of an entity larger than a person, but such that a larger part of it is visible, not the whole (e.g. we see a large part of a square, but not its whole surface).

Important parts in the film are emphasized by an extreme close-up shot. An extreme close-up is a shot which shows only a small part of an object or a person.

7. In what order does the girl save the animals?

The girl heads towards the boy's house and along the way she first saves a squirrel. After the squirrel, she saves a dog that fell while trying to get an apple from a tree. Towards the end of the film, the girl also saves a fox. They all come to the boy's door together.

8. What do we call the kind of shot in which the boy opens the door and sees the girl with all her new friends?

It's a subjective shot. A subjective shot represents the point of view of a certain character, i.e. it provides insight into the view of a particular character (what the character sees). Subjective shots can also be distinguished stylistically, so a subjective shot of a person who has taken off their prescription glasses will be shot out of focus, and a dynamic camera (handheld camera) can be used for a subjective shot of a drunk driver, which will suggest swerving on the road. In this film, a subjective shot doesn't differ stylistically from the rest of the film, but its point of view is defined by the shot that precedes and follows it, and this is a shot of the boy opening the door, then in the subjective shot he sees the girl and her friends, and in the next shot we see the boy again.

9. How does the film end?

The girl, surrounded by her new friends, knocks on the boy's door and he is surprised at who he sees there. The boy faints in shock and falls to the floor, accompanied by a suitable noise which is followed by non-diegetic piano music. After the last shot, we see some short end credits.

TRASH INVASION

Photo Cinema Video Club Zaprešić, Zaprešić, 2023

MOTIVATION

Conversation with the students

1. Do you recycle? Does your school recycle?
2. How should you properly separate waste? What can be recycled and reused?
3. What can we do to help the Earth and to preserve it for future generations?

THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE FILM

You will watch a short film *Trash Invasion* produced by Photo Cinema Video Club Zaprešić, made in 2023.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR WATCHING

1. Pay attention to who the main character is.
2. How is trash depicted in the film? What is it made of?
3. How would you determine what type of film this is? As a reminder, films are divided into four types: fiction, documentary, animation, and experimental. This film features filmmaking techniques that are characteristic of two film types. What are they?
4. Pay attention to the parts of the film that will likely remind you of techniques that are more common in television formats. What exactly do these parts remind you of? What do you think they are used for?
5. Connect the name of the film with its content.

WATCHING THE FILM

EXPRESSION OF STUDENT IMPRESSIONS

Did you like this film? Why?

How important do you think this topic is today?

ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION OF THE FILM

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

The film begins with an animated extreme wide shot of a forest with a trash can. The name of the film emerges from the trash can. After we see the film's name, a girl enters the shot (a combination of fiction and animation), opens a chocolate bar and throws the wrapper on the floor.

2. What happens to the discarded wrapper?

The discarded wrapper becomes garbage and a little garbage-creature emerges, demanding its rights. Since the legs around it don't listen to it, the little garbage-creature organizes a protest and tries to fight for the rights of garbage.

3. What happens after the protest?

After a cut, the title "A Good Clapperboard" appears. The title dissolves into a close-up of the host of the show called "A Good Clapperboard", who is greeting the viewers and beginning her interview with the garbage-

creature. A dissolve is an editing transition in which, while one shot gradually disappears by fading out, another shot appears in its place through double exposure.

4. How does the film end?

Since nobody takes him seriously, the garbage-creature starts spreading trash around the world. First, in an extreme wide shot, garbage attacks two girls while they are sitting, and at the very end, the garbage-creature spreads its trash all across a small country. The film ends with the entire shot being occupied by trash.

EVALUATION

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

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