

Educational material

The Circles of Love, You're in the Middle of the Sea



CLASS DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDATION: 6th grade

TEACHING AREA: Culture and media

TEACHING UNIT: *The Circles of Love, You're in the Middle of the Sea*

CLASS TYPE: Analysis of short fiction films

DURATION OF A TEACHING UNIT: 45 minutes

THE CIRCLES OF LOVE

Većeslav Holjevac Primary School Film group, Zagreb, 2025

MOTIVATION

Conversation with the students

1. Name a few words you associate with the word love.
2. How would you define love?
3. In what ways can love be expressed or shown?
4. Would you ever confess your feelings to someone you are in love with? Why?

THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE FILM

You will watch a short film *The Circles of Love* produced by the Većeslav Holjevac Primary School Film Group from Zagreb.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR WATCHING

1. How is the topic of the film introduced at the very beginning? How is the name of the film designed?
2. Pay attention to the kinds of shots used.
3. Which elements of sound appear in the film?
4. How does the film begin and how does it end? Connect this to the story's denouement.

WATCHING THE FILM

STUDENTS' IMPRESSIONS

What do you think of this film? Be sure to provide arguments for your impressions.

ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION OF THE FILM

1. How does the film begin?

The film begins with a shot of the name of the film.

2. How is the name of the film designed? How is the film's topic announced at the very beginning?

The name of the film consists of two intertwined circles resembling rings, with one word in each circle. Red hearts that symbolize love also appear.

3. Which shot follows the shot with the film's name?

A full shot of Jan sitting and reading a book, and then a medium shot of Jan deeply absorbed in reading, with a smile on his face.

4. What can we conclude from those two shots?

We can conclude that he is one of the main characters, that he goes to school, and that he likes reading.

5. What follows next?

A wide shot of the school interior, a girl walking down the stairs. Then there's a full shot of the girl saying hello to someone. In the next shot, a boy returns the greeting, but the girl didn't say hello to him, but her friend Sara who enters the school and stands behind Jan.

6. What kinds of shots are Jan and Sara in?

Jan is in a medium full shot, and Sara is in a full shot.

7. How do the viewers find out that the boy is sad?

After the girls greet each other and it becomes clear that Eva is not greeting Jan but her friend, we see a medium shot of Jan in profile as he lowers his head, suggesting he is sad because Eva did not notice or greet him.

8. What editing transition is used to move to the next scene?

A fade-out/fade-in transition is used, showing a medium shot of the friends in a classroom sitting at a desk, commenting on something they saw on their phones.

9. In what kinds of shots is Eva shown when she's in front of the board?

First she's in a medium full shot, then in a medium shot.

10. What does Jan try to do?

He tries to help her by whispering the answer, but she doesn't understand him and answers incorrectly.

11. What kind of shot is Jan in when she answers incorrectly and everyone laughs at her?

Jan's in a close-up, filmed from a low angle.

12. Give an example of a subjective shot.

For example, when Jan and Eva talk in the hallway, based on the filming angle, it's clear we're seeing Jan through Eva's eyes because she's standing and he is shot from a high angle. Likewise, we see Eva through Jan's eyes because he is sitting and she's shot from a low angle.

13. Which prop is very important for the plot?

The backpack, because Jan accidentally leaves a book with a message about his love for Eva in Sara's backpack.

14. What do we call the kind of shot used when the girls discover the book and the hidden message inside?

It is called a two-shot; both girls are in a medium shot.

15. Considering the beginning and the end of the film, what type of composition does this film have?

The film has a circular composition.

16. How does the film end?

The ending is similar to the beginning. Sara, in a full shot, sits in the same place where Jan sat at the beginning of the film. Just like him, she reads a book, and in the next shot Jan walks down the stairs in a full shot and greets someone. Sara thinks he is greeting her, but he is actually greeting his friend who's entering the school.

17. What is this film based on?

The film is based on a mistake or a misunderstanding, which creates a comedic effect.

18. Do you know what this technique is called?

Quid pro quo.

19. Name all the elements of sound.

The elements of sound are speech, music, and noises.

20. Give examples of the elements of sound in this film.

All elements are present – the characters' speech, non-diegetic music, and noises (e.g., the noises in the hallway, laughter, the sounds of writing etc.).

21. Where does the entire film take place?

In the school interior (hallways, the classroom, the library).

22. What type of film is this?

It's a fiction film.

YOU'RE IN THE MIDDLE OF THE SEA
Vis Primary School Drama group, Vis, 2025

MOTIVATION

Conversation with the students

1. Do you spend your summer vacations on an island?
2. What are the advantages and disadvantages of life on an island?
3. What problems do island residents face?

THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE FILM

You will watch a short film *You Are in the Middle of the Sea* produced by Vis Primary School Drama Group.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR WATCHING

1. Pay attention to the beginning of the film. How is the film's topic introduced?
2. Which shot further emphasizes the problem on the island?
3. How is humour achieved? What are the individual problems of each character and how are they connected to the universal problem?
4. Pay attention to the kinds of shots used in the ferry company office.

WATCHING THE FILM

STUDENTS' IMPRESSIONS

What do you think of this film? Be sure to provide arguments for your impressions.

ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION OF THE FILM

1. How does the film start?

After we see the name of the film, we see a shot of an interior and a character in a full shot looking out the window toward the sea, and we hear the noise of the wind. In the same shot, we see a female character dusting and then sitting in an armchair.

2. What is the next shot like?

The next shot shows a news broadcast with a weather forecast, where the presenter speaks about a storm in the central Adriatic, announcing the film's topic. Then we see a two-shot medium shot of the characters in an armchair.

3. After another weather forecast shot, what is introduced?

A shot of a ferry on rough seas, emphasizing the film's topic: life on the island that's dependent on weather conditions.

4. After the interior of the living room, where does most of the film take place?

In the ferry company (Jadrolinija) office.

5. Who are the characters that come to the ferry office?

Residents of the island of Vis and tourists.

6. What are their individual problems? Why must they go to Split by ferry?

Reasons include a dermatologist visit, going to the marketplace and shops, collecting their pension, taking an exam, and catching a flight.

7. Which character stands out?

Andrija stands out because he is the only one that's happy that the ferries aren't running, because that gives him an excuse for not appearing as a witness in court.

8. How is the scene in the office filmed?

The ticket seller controls the fate of the other characters; he announces the ferry will not depart. A barrier separates him from the others. He appears mostly in close-ups or medium close-ups, while the others are in medium close-ups or medium shots.

9. What do we call a shot which makes us see through a character's eyes?

A subjective shot.

10. Give an example of a subjective shot in this film.

The ticket seller's perspective is a subjective shot: he sits on an elevated chair and looks at the other characters, suggested by a slightly higher angle and the fact that the camera is placed where he sits in the office (behind the barrier).

11. What problem do all the characters have in common?

Despite individual reasons, their shared problem is that the ferry will not depart due to bad weather.

12. What appears after the end credits?

A shot of a ferry on stormy seas, emphasizing that life on an island is dependent on weather. There are also film captions explaining that ferries will not be able to enter Split harbor.

13. What is the final shot of the film?

A humorous caption of a quote in dialect, related to the ferry.

14. How is humour achieved?

Through acting and specific types of speech.

15. What elements of sound are present in this film?

Speech and noises (like the wind or large waves), which emphasize the storm which is the reason the ferries can't run. Music appears only in the news segment seen on TV and during the end credits.

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.