

Educational material

My Grandpa and Me



CLASS DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDATION: 7th grade

TEACHING AREA: Culture and media

TEACHING UNIT: *My Grandpa and Me*

CLASS TYPE: Analysis of a short documentary film

DURATION OF A TEACHING UNIT: 45 minutes

MY GRANDPA AND ME

Krešo Golik Film Group from Ivanka Trohar Primary School, Fužine, 2025

MOTIVATION

Conversation with the students

1. What are the advantages and disadvantages of living in the countryside and living in the city?
2. Do you help your parents or grandparents with household chores?
3. Do you spend more of your free time outdoors or indoors? Why?

THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE FILM

You will watch a short film *My Grandpa and Me* produced by the Krešo Golik Film Group from Ivanka Trohar Primary School from Fužine, Croatia.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR WATCHING

1. Pay attention to the different kinds of shots used in the film and whether the shots are wider or tighter.
2. Identify the editing transitions used.
3. Compare the opening and closing shots of the film, noting their similarities and differences.
4. Which elements make up the sound of this film?

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?

The film starts with a static shot of the exterior (an extreme wide shot of the house, a wide shot of the street) with non-diegetic music interrupted by the noise of a horn.

2. Who is the narrator in the film? What do we call that type of voice?

The narrator is a girl called Naomi, who guides the viewer through the film's story with her voice, which we call a voice-over.

3. How do we first find out who the protagonists are?

Naomi introduces herself and her grandfather through her voice-over, and at the same time we can see her and her grandfather in a full shot walking towards the van, while Naomi simultaneously explains that her grandfather walks her to the van every day when she goes to school.

4. What comes after the shot of the exterior?

Next we see a shot inside the van, where Naomi is shown in a medium close-up as she looks for the cat.

5. How is her life in school shown?

In a shot of the interior of the school hall where students are exercising.

6. In what kind of shot are the students that are exercising?

They are mostly in full shots.

7. Is the camera in the school hall static or dynamic?

Mostly dynamic.

8. When does Naomi introduce herself again?

She introduces herself when she does a somersault.

9. What does Naomi want to be when she grows up?

She wants to be a chemist.

10. In which shot do we find that out?

Naomi is in a medium shot using a microscope, and among the other props there's a box of test tubes.

11. When Naomi says that she likes to spend her time with her grandfather working around the house, in what kinds of shots does the grandfather appear when he brings food to the dog?

He appears in full shots.

12. From what angle is the grandfather filmed while he's chopping wood?

He's filmed from a low angle, which makes him look like a strong and powerful man who keeps everything under control.

13. How does Naomi help her grandfather?

She takes care of the chickens.

14. Are the shots wide or tight? Why?

The shots are wide because such shots and full shots of the protagonists show the viewers the place of action, but also the protagonist's relation to that space and their position in it.

15. What is the movement of the camera like when Naomi goes to feed the chickens?

Dynamic handheld camera.

16. Name the four main editing transitions.

Cut, dissolve, fade out-fade in, wipe.

17. Which editing transition appears after the wood chopping scene?

A dissolve appears to emphasize the passage of time, which is further emphasized by the fact that the tree branches were first bare, which means it was winter, while after the dissolve the flowers are in bloom, which means it's spring.

18. When is the viewer first allowed to enter the interior of Naomi's family's house?

The viewer sees their house for the first time when the grandfather calls Naomi in to eat. This is followed by tighter shots in the kitchen, which create the impression of warmth and intimacy, in contrast to the wide shots of the exterior which show the idyllic yard and the nature surrounding the family.

19. In what kinds of shots does the grandfather appear in the kitchen scene?

He first appears in a medium full shot, then in a full shot as he moves away from the camera and towards the fridge. While he prepares his meal, we see an extreme close-up of his hands over the pan, and when he talks to Naomi, he is filmed in a medium close-up from a low angle.

20. How is the fourth wall broken in this film?

The grandfather speaks directly to the camera when he waves with a mop.

21. How does the film end?

The film ends with a similar shot as at the beginning of the film, as the van that drives Naomi to school appears again, but the action is set in a different season and Naomi is not accompanied by her grandfather but by her father, while she says in the voice-over that she's now in second grade and that she opens the van door herself.

22. What is that sort of composition called?

It's called a circular composition because the film starts and ends with an almost identical shot.

23. Which elements of sound are present in this film?

Noises, speech and music.

24. Are all the elements of sound present in this film? Give examples.

There are noises (for example, the sound of the van's horn, the sound of barking, the sound of birds chirping, the sound of the grandfather's saw), music (non-diegetic, underlines the atmosphere) and speech (dialogue between the protagonists and the voice-over).

25. What type of film is this?

A documentary film.

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.