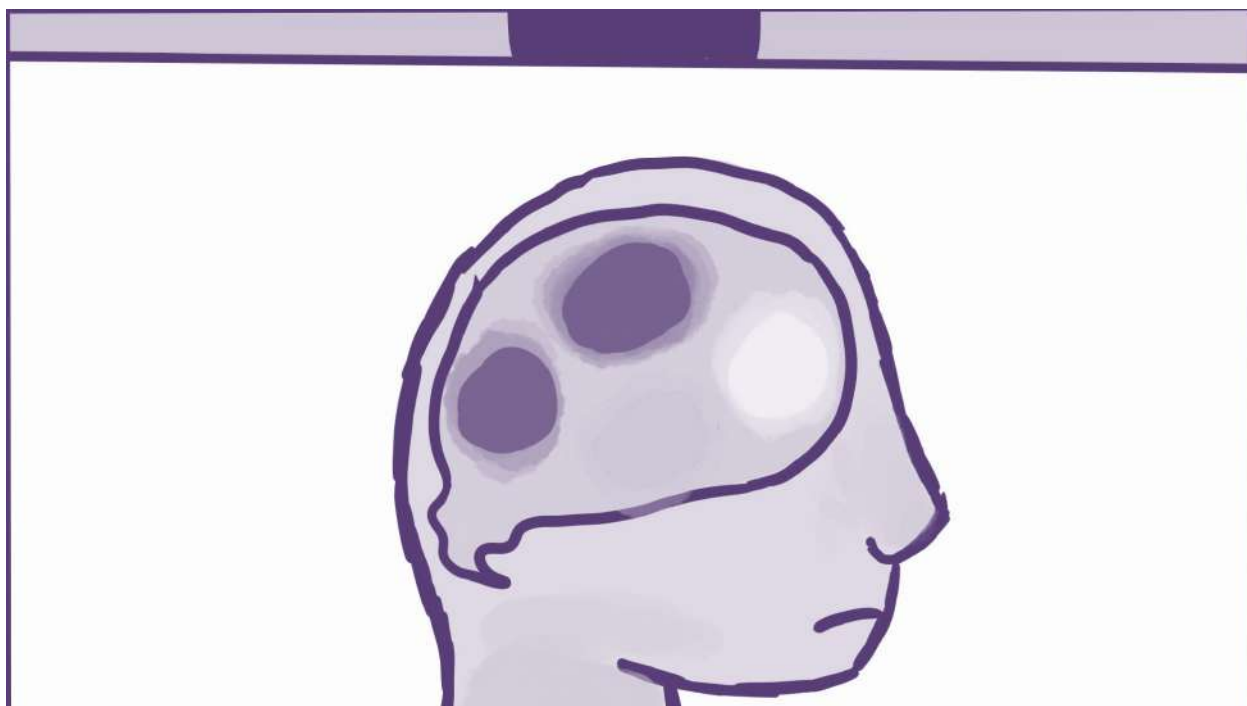


Educational material

Phobia



CLASS DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDATION: 8th grade

TEACHING AREA: Culture and media

TEACHING UNIT: *Phobia*

CLASS TYPE: Analysis of a short animated film

DURATION OF A TEACHING UNIT: 45 minutes

PHOBIA

Dubrava School of Animated Film, Zagreb, 2025

MOTIVATION

Conversation with the students

1. Which fears can you name?
2. What are you afraid of?
3. How can we overcome our fears?
4. Do you know the Ancient Greek word for fear?

THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE FILM

You will watch a short film *Phobia* produced by Dubrava School of Animated Film from Zagreb.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR WATCHING

1. How does the film begin and end? Why are those shots important?
2. Who is the main character, and which stylistic device is the depiction of the cause of fear based on?
3. Take note of the subjective shots in the 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?

With an animation by the Dubrava School of Animated Film, followed by the name of the film.

2. What does the shot following the name of the film show?

It shows a classroom with a whiteboard in the center, featuring a drawing of a person and the word "Emotions." A teacher stands next to the board, explaining the illustration with a hand gesture directed toward the human brain.

3. What comes next?

Next is a close-up of the drawing of a human on the board which shows the colourful brain, each colour representing one area of the brain. Then there is a sharp zoom in towards the purple area.

4. What is explained by those first two shots and the sudden zoom into the purple area of the brain?

It is explained that our feelings originate in the brain, and that a specific part of the brain (the purple part) is the one where the feeling of fear develops.

5. Who is the main character of the film?

The purple part of the brain, i.e. fear personified.

6. Which fears are shown?

Fear of the deep sea, fear of heights, fear of spiders.

7. How are the causes of fear shown?

They are shown in an extremely fantastical-surrealistic way (a watchful eye in the sea) and hyperbolized (a giant spider).

8. What is suggested with this?

It's suggested that we perceive things that scare us as much worse than they are, meaning that our brain actually constructs fear.

9. What is a subjective shot? Give an example from this film.

A subjective shot is a shot in which the audience looks through the eyes of a character. In this film, an example of a subjective shot is when fear crosses the bridge and looks at its feet while walking. That subjective shot is further emphasized by the high angle. Also, the subjective shot appears when fear looks at the spider, but also when the spider looks at fear (the exchange of subjective shots of the spider and fear).

10. How does the film end?

The film ends with a close-up of a man drawn on the board to once again explain that fear is a product of our minds.

11. What do we call such a composition?

A circular composition.

12. What elements does the sound in this film consist of?

It consists of noises (for example, the noise of a creaky door opening, the noise of swimming, etc.) and non-diegetic instrumental music that creates an impression of fear, anxiety and tension.

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.