

Lights, Camera, FILM Literacy!

Lesson Plan #8

Topics:

Journal Writing
Three Levels of Viewing Film
THE ADVENTURES OF DOLLIE
Charlie Chaplin
THE KID (no sound, no music)
Additional Camera Shots

Outcomes:

Students will follow organizational procedures.
Students will see and hear applicable vocabulary.
Students will analyze "D.W. Griffith's *THE ADVENTURES OF DOLLIE* on three levels: literary, dramatic, and cinematic.
Students will analyze a Charlie Chaplin silent film *THE KID*.
Students will recognize additional camera shots used in *THE KID*.
Students will modify their original storyboards in pre-production.
Students will film new shots.
Students will re-edit their films.

Materials:

Writing journals
Camcorder
Tripod
Computers with Editing Software
LCD projector
Chart paper
Post-its
Individual student pocket folders

HANDOUTS: "Rating Literary, Dramatic, and Cinematic Aspects of Silent Film"
Camera Shots (in student folders)
Storyboard shells

DVD: *THE KID*

New Vocabulary: literary, dramatic, cinematic

Sequence of Events:

I. Journal Activity (15)

Prompt:

What are some challenges your group experienced while creating the one-setting silent conflict film?

II. Three Aspects of Film Production (30)

1. Introduce (*review for LCL! students*) these levels of analyzing film:

LITERARY (book, play, movie)-story, dialogue, character traits, character arc, motivation

DRAMATIC (play, movie)-acting, sets, costumes

CINEMATIC (movie)- camera angles, frame composition, lighting, music, "time jumping" via montage, flashback

2. Students rate D.W. Griffith's *The Adventures of Dollie*.

HANDOUT: "Literary, Dramatic, Cinematic Aspects of Film"

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cYQCTEYjYDA>

(12 minutes in length)

3. Discuss afterward.

III. Charlie Chaplin (20)

1. Have students guess in how many films Charlie Chaplin...

...Acted - 87

...Directed - 75

...Wrote - 61

...Edited - 56

...Produced - 35

...Composed - 17

(source: www.imdb.com)

2. Tell students that in 1992, a movie starring Robert Downey, Jr. was made about Chaplin's life. Show this 8-minute intro to learn a little bit about Chaplin. (Note: Song at the end SMILE was written by Chaplin.)
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IUwg9P3EH4Y>

IV. THE KID (60)

1. Watch Chaplin in a **totally silent** version of THE KID...no music.
(Trust that students will adjust to no sound within the first five minutes due to the emotional nature of the story and to Chaplin's acting.)
2. As a class, analyze this movie via the three aspects of film production.

V. Using More Camera Shots (60)

1. Discuss with students camera shots not used in D.W. Griffith's films that were used in **THE KID**.
2. Allow students to add these additional camera shots to improve their own silent films. They redo their storyboards, film, and edit.

VI. Reflection: (15)

1. Direct students to the hanging chart paper labeled:

**How did THE KID provide more ideas
for early filmmakers?**

2. Hand out Post-its on which students write and post.
3. Review the comments on the Post-Its with the class, so students have a sense of what was learned that day. Make sure to clear up any misconceptions.