

Lights, Camera, MEDIA Literacy!

Lesson Plan # 19

Topics:

Journal Writing
Three Aspects of Film
Silent Film: *MY BEST GIRL*
Early Animated Films
Animated Production

Outcomes:

Students will follow organizational procedures.
Students will see, hear, and use applicable vocabulary.
Students will analyze the three aspects of film as they watch the silent film *MY BEST GIRL*.
Students will view and analyze early animation.
Students will work on pre-production of a 2-D animated film.

Materials:

Writing journals
LCD projector
Camcorders
Tripods
Mini-DV Tape or memory cards
Computers with iStopMotion (or similar) software
Chart paper
Post-its
Individual student pocket folders
Construction paper
Markers/Scissors

HANDOUTS: Rating Literary, Dramatic, and Cinematic Aspects of Silent Film
How Animation Got Its Start
Creating a Three-Act Newsies Film (page two)
Storyboard Shells (from previous lesson)

DVD: *MY BEST GIRL*

New Vocabulary: literary, dramatic, cinematic

Sequence of Events:

I. Journal Writing (15)

1. Prompt:

How did you feel about pre-production of your film?

II. Three Aspects of Film and *MY BEST GIRL* (100)

1. Explain to student that there are three aspects of films and that after viewing Mary Pickford in *MY BEST GIRL*, they will be rating the film on these three aspects. Review the three aspects of film as listed on the handout.

HAND OUT: Rating Literary, Dramatic, and Cinematic Aspects of Silent Film

3. Watch the silent Mary Pickford film *MY BEST GIRL*.

DVD: *MY BEST GIRL*

4. Direct students to rate *MY BEST GIRL* via the three aspects of film and comment on each category. Discuss their ratings and compare to films today. Discuss student reaction to Mary Pickford and the experience of watching a silent film.

III. Brief History of Early Animation (15)

1. Explain to students that while live action films were first getting started, there were also experiments with animation. Direct students to work alone or with others to fill in the blanks on the handout. This will then be used as a guide.

HANDOUT: How Animation Got Its Start

2. Students correct their answers to # 1,2,3 as you show (youtube.com) and discuss the following in order:

- "The Enchanted Drawing"** (1:30) by J. Stuart Blackton 1900
- "Humorous Phases of Funny Faces"** (3:00) by J. Stuart Blackton 1906
- "Fantasmagoria"** (1:17) by Emile Cohl 1908
- "Gertie, the Dinosaur"** (5:47) by Winsor McCay 1914

IV. Creating an Animated Film (55)

1. Remind students of their preproduction work for their Newsies film. Explain that this film is not going to be live action, but rather two-dimensional stop-action animation.
2. Hand out the second page of the direction sheet.

HANDOUT: CREATING A THREE-ACT NEWSIES FILM: PAGE TWO

3. Tell students that they will be creating a construction paper background, placing it on the floor or table, and creating movable pieces to be animated on top of the background. The camera will be on a tripod and aimed downward for shooting.
A software program called **iStopMotion** will be used to capture individual frames and will be demonstrated to individual groups when they complete their pre-production artwork and are ready to film.
4. Groups work on their productions.

V. Reflection (15)

1. Direct students to the hanging chart paper labeled:

What did you learn about early animation?

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. Make sure to clear up any misconceptions.