

Film in EFL Lessons

17 March 2008

Matthew D. Smith
Fulbright Teaching Assistant
University of Pécs, Hungary

Contents of the Presentation

- Purpose and Objective of using film in EFL
- Types of Films
- Pitfalls of using film
- Tasks that accompany films
- Viewing suggestions and strategies
 - Guided viewing (lesson plan handout)
 - Applying Multiple Intelligences theory to viewing, and post-viewing activities



Types of films

- Full-length features (60 minutes or more)
- Scenes or clips (5-10 minutes)
- Short films or TV shows (about 30 min)
- Cartoons (less than 30 minutes)



Objectives and Purposes of Film in EFL

- Build vocabulary and conversation skills
- Develop cultural literacy
- Provide other stimuli for learning
 - See Multiple Intelligences activity suggestions
- Empower students to learn English more independently



Developing Film Objectives



- Have a clear learning objective in mind
 - “Students will be able to...”
- Use action verbs that tell exactly what students will do
 - ... develop a dialog to complete a film clip.



Developing Film Objectives

Students will be able to develop a dialog to complete a film clip.

Students will be able to interact with other students to make a summary and prediction of the cartoon Scooby Doo.



Pitfalls of Using Film in Class



- “Day Off” mentality
- Difficult for students to understand
 - Too much English
 - Difficult tasks to perform while viewing
- Students not adequately introduced to the film or culture



Tasks to accompany films



- Keep them short and simple
 - True/ False, fill-in-the-blanks, check boxes
 - Avoid lengthy tasks that will require students to divert attention from viewing the film



Guided Viewing

- Use short clips (5-10 minutes maximum)
- Focus on one grammatical lesson or set of vocabulary
- Gradually build confidence and difficulty of English language
- Accompany with simple viewing activities
- Stop, discuss the clip, then play it again for better understanding
- Have a post-viewing activity to reinforce key concepts and newly learned material



Guided Viewing

Rut Roo, Raggy!
This film is scary!



- Scooby Doo cartoon
 - English (Hungarian subtitles)
 - Hungarian (English subtitles)
 - Hungarian (Hungarian subtitles)
 - 5 minute clip



Multiple Intelligences Film Activities

- 8 intelligences (Howard Gardner)
 - Verbal-linguistic
 - Logical-mathematical
 - Visual-spatial
 - Musical-rhythmic
 - Bodily kinesthetic
 - Interpersonal
 - Intrapersonal
 - Naturalist*



Activities that tap multiple intelligences

- Write a prediction of how the film will end: *verbal-linguistic* or *logical-mathematical*
- Act out a dialog or skit based on the film: *visual-spatial* or *bodily-kinesthetic*
- Write a script for the film based on a silent viewing: *verbal-linguistic*
- Working in pairs or groups: *Interpersonal*



References

- Multiple Intelligences Theory and the EFL Classroom. *Explorations in Teacher Education*. JALT Teacher Education SIG Newsletter. Spring 2003. Vol. 11. I. 1
- www.internet4classrooms.com

Thank You!

Matthew D. Smith
Fulbright Teaching Assistant
University of Pécs, Hungary