

FILM I ENGELSK

- GENERAL EXERCISES FOR FILM WORK



Foto: 'The Ground Beneath' Passion Pictures

Remember to use the right cinematic terms for your answers. Read about the cinematic terms in **"The language of film"**

Watch only the teaser – the beginning of the film:

The teaser and the plot

Watch the teaser with these questions in mind:

1. Describe the atmosphere. Use adjectives.
How is the atmosphere created?
Which genre is the film? How can you tell?
Reason your answers by focusing on matters like setting, props, lighting, camera movement / angle, characters etc.
2. What is going to happen next?
Make a storyboard for the rest of the film. Write a short description about picture, sound and dialogue for each scene. Remember to use the right cinematic terms about sounds, camera distance / movements / sounds.

The teaser and sounds

Listen carefully to the sounds of the teaser without seeing the picture.

3. Which kinds of sounds are used? (E.g. direct sound, sound effects, music, voice-over, dialogue, speech)
4. Is the setting or surroundings established by the sounds?
Which atmosphere does the sound create? Use adjectives.
Can you tell the genre of the film by the sounds? If yes, how?

FILM

Watch the entire movie:

The best scene

Choose the best scene from the movie.

- Describe the scene carefully and explain why you think it's the best. Use your knowledge about camera movement, distances and angles, sound / music and light / colouring.

You could also do the same with the best scene from your favourite movie.

The plot and the narrative model

Put the highlights of the plot into the narrative model.

- Make a screen shot for each part of the model.
Describe the connection between filming tools and plot for each screen shot.

Props

- Are there any important props in the film? Is **camera distance** used to tell that the prop is important? E.g. by showing it in close-up?
- Is the prop used as a symbol for something else?
- Is the prop used as part of a set-up / pay-off? How?
- Is the prop central to the story?

Set-up / pay-off

- Are there any set-ups / pay-offs in the movie?
Are they made with props, persons, persons' actions or something else?

Flashback / flashforward

- Does the movie use flashback or flashforward?
How can you tell that a scene is flashback / flashforward?
Is special light / colouring or sound / music used to show the time leap?

Pause and describe – atmosphere and adjectives

- Pause the movie where something important happens.
Describe the still picture. Use your knowledge about camera distance and angle, colours / lighting. How does the visual part connect with the mood and the characters' feelings?
- Make a screenshot and print it. Write as many appropriate adjectives as possible on the print. If you are able to, you could write directly on a smartboard instead.

Pause and describe – actions and verbs

- Pause the movie where there is a lot of action going on.
Make a screenshot and print it. Write as many appropriate verbs as possible on the print. If possible you could write directly on a smartboard instead.

Pause and describe – depth and prepositions

- Pause the movie where there is a great depth in the picture.
Describe what you can see in the foreground, middle ground and background.
Use as many prepositions as possible.

Angles and distances.

- Make your own pictures of the high angle, low angle and eye level shots. Use either screen shots from a film or use a camera, tablet or mobile phone.
Do the same for the 6 different camera distances (see "The language of film").
Describe (in English) for each one what you can see in the picture.



Angles, distances and movement

18. Make a video where you show and explain (in English) the different types of camera angles, distances and movements.

Language and screen shots (2 minute activities)

Make at least 20 screen shots and print them. Mix the screen shots and put them upside down – pick a random screen shot:

19. Who can write most adjectives, verbs or nouns for the screen shot?
20. Retell the plot of the film from the screen shot.
21. Make up a new story for the screen shot.
22. Describe the screen shot using the right cinematic terms about angle, depth and distance.

Make your own short filmStarting up

Answer these questions to get started:

- What is the conflict or problem?
- Who are the characters?
- Where does the story take place?

Remember to keep it simple: Short films often only have one main plot and you don't have an unlimited Hollywood budget. So flying superheroes, car chasing dinosaurs and alien zombies in outer space might not be a good idea.

The narrative model

Put your story into the narrative model. Write down a few keywords for each section. Pay extra attention to:

- The teaser – Which event sets off the story? It has to have some connection with the conflict.
- Point of no return – When are matters tied into a deadlock?
- The climax – How is the problem going to be solved?
- Do you want to use props as important symbols?
- Do you want to use set-up / pay-off?

You might want to have more than one scene in the **elaboration** and the **conflict escalation**.

Storyboard and manuscript

Make a storyboard – draw and describe each scene carefully using the right cinematic terms about sounds, camera distance / movements, point of view and sounds.

If it helps you, write down all the lines in a manuscript – otherwise don't.

Finally – make your movie!