

Men at Work Lesson Ideas

Details

- Synopsis: When the city wakes up for a day of work, the pressure is on for unemployed Luca to convince his business contact Michele that he is gainfully employed.
- Genre: Live-action drama
- Suggested age group for this film activity: S3+

Place of this activity sheet within MLAN Curriculum:

- Lifestyles – Leisure
- Lifestyles – Family and Friends

Cross curricular and inter disciplinary areas (subjects):

- Modern Studies
- Health and well-being

Curriculum for Excellence Outcomes

- MLAN 4.01, 4.02, 4.03,4.04, 4.05, 4.06, 4.07

Resources required:

- Computer and projector or DVD player + screen, paper

Prior Learning

NB. For further details about these activities view and print off the Pre-view and Main Activities pdf.

- This film would fit into 2 main areas of the curriculum:
 - Lifestyles – Leisure – Invitation/Telephone Conversations/Arranging a Date.
 - Lifestyles – Family and Friends – Daily Routine.
- Pupils should know how to conduct a telephone conversation in the target language as well as how to arrange an appointment with someone.
- It would also be useful to discuss daily routines both in this country and in Italy and how they differ.

Questions

- What is the purpose of using the crane shot at the beginning of the film?
- What types of people do you see in the establishing shot?
- What can you tell about the man from the furnishings in his room?
- What dramatic tricks does he use to try and fool his 'counterpart' into believing him?

Activities

Please note: these activities are intended as suggestions for the type of activities that might be used with this film for a variety of different age groups; the activities can of course be adapted by the teacher to the age and experience of their specific class.

Pre-viewing or Warm-up Activities

- The title of the film should be discussed with class. What do they think that it will be about?
- Why is the title in English?
- Discuss daily routines in different cultures and why they are important.
- Discuss the importance of putting up a good appearance with a particular reference to Italian culture, fashion and style.

Watching

- Class should listen to the film before they view it.
- What is their perception of the film at this stage?
- What do they think is happening?
- Are they convinced by the deception?
- Class should then watch the film.
- Don't reveal the title of the film, but allow the students to watch it and guess what it is called. After watching the film discuss why it is called this.

Analysing

- When listening to the film pupils should write down words/phrases that they have understood. At the end of this activity there could either be a class discussion about what is happening, or pupils could work in groups and discuss this then report back to the class.
- When watching the film for the first time, pupils should again write down any additional words/phrases that they have understood.
- At the end of the first viewing, you could have a class discussion about whether they were taken in by the deception.
- The film should then be viewed a third time pausing at various different points and pupils will answer different questions about the film/characters.

- Working as a class carry out a full grid analysis on the film (Similarities, Surprises, Patterns and Puzzles) to try and determine the different themes and meanings of the film.
- Discuss whether the ending was a surprise or not? Ask pupils whether they believed the deception, or even whether the characters believed it. Ask what they think was the theme of this film.
- Discuss how the patterns in the film give us clues about the true theme of the film.
- Discuss why the men are lying and how long this may have been going on. Discuss the reasons why they might be behaving this way.

Follow-up and cross-curricular activities

- Practice making telephone calls in Italian. Using an assistant make and record calls from one classroom to another to give pupils an idea of what it is like to make a telephone call in another language for work purposes.
- Cross-curricular links with Modern Studies can be forged around the themes of unemployment and self-esteem. Research how many graduates are unemployed in Italy compared to the UK and the reasons behind this statistic.
- Cultural awareness: La bella figura.
 - This could either be researched on the internet or the teacher could explain what this means in Italian culture.
- Economic problems in Italy
 - This could also be researched on the internet and pupils could find out how the economic crisis is affecting Italians today.

Assessment Possibilities

- Telephone conversations could be used as an assessment instrument for both Standard Grade and Intermediate 1.

Compiled by Louise Lang (2010)