Coming Soon to Your Classroom: Film as Literature
Hello!

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Topeka, Kansas

- 1:1 with MacBooks
- Project-Based Learning
- Blended Learning
Why should we teach film as literature?

How do we teach film as literature?

How do we make film as literature meaningful?
Annual Film Festival

- Awards for the best films!
  - Best Overall
  - Best Sound
  - Best Editing
- Students choose the winners with their own vote!
- Winners receive trophies!
You’ll get films like this!
And some like this...
Why should we teach film as literature?
100 Students
73 of them chose film as lit as their favorite unit.
I mean, it wasn’t that bad, I had fun in the Film as Literature unit. It was cool because we got to analyze film shots, transitions, and the roles of certain jobs in the film industry.

– Nicholas E.
I loved this unit because we were free to choose our own groups and write our own stories. It was awesome because we were able to be creative.

- Kaleigh B.
This year started off kind of boring, but it turned out to be amazing. You do this unit called filmmaking and it was the best unit ever.

– Sophie S.
STORYTELLING
You must be convinced that the fundamental effort of education is to help with the liberation of people, never their domestication.

– Antero Garcia

*Pose, Wobble, Flow*
HOW DO WE DO IT WELL?
ANALYZING DIFFERENT TYPES OF LIT UNIT
3 Types of Literature

- Short Story
- Play
- Film
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Literary Terms</th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>round &amp; flat</strong></td>
<td><strong>dynamic &amp; static</strong></td>
<td><strong>irony (3)</strong></td>
<td><strong>suspense</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>plot terms</strong></td>
<td><strong>foreshadowing</strong></td>
<td><strong>flashback</strong></td>
<td><strong>dialogue</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>monologue</strong></td>
<td><strong>symbol</strong></td>
<td><strong>protagonist</strong></td>
<td><strong>antagonist</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>conflict (3)</strong></td>
<td><strong>direct characterization</strong></td>
<td><strong>indirect characterization</strong></td>
<td><strong>character traits</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Vocabulary Resources

But WHY is it happening?
- Enhance writing skills
- Enhance reading skills
- Learn how to put together interesting stories (which is way more important than you think)

Plays and Movies

Books and Short Stories

Short stories, plays, and films all have the following terminology in common.

Vocabulary: Plot
- **Plot:** the sequence of events in a story
  - **Exposition:** where the characters and setting are introduced
  - **Rising Action:** the events that lead up to the climax
  - **Decline:** events leading to the conclusion
  - **Climax:** the turning point of the story
  - **Resolution:** events leading to the conclusion
  - **Falling Action:** events leading to the conclusion
  - **Incident:** a minor event that helps explain the story
  - **Stakes:** what is at risk in the story

✖ Click here for a slideshow!
✖ Click here for guided notes!
Picture Review Game
3 Types of Literature

“The Most Dangerous Game”

Night of January 16th

Inception
Application of Vocabulary Resources

Inception Character Chart
Use this chart to keep track of the different characters that you are introduced to in the movie Inception. Be sure to include both background information, as well as character traits. When identifying character traits, you should also decide if the character is round or flat, and if they are static or dynamic.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Character</th>
<th>Background Information &amp; Character Traits</th>
<th>Static or Dynamic? Why?</th>
<th>Round or Flat? Why?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cobb</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arthur</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ariadne</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

× Click here for a short story GO!
× Click here for play GO!
× Click here for film GO!
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Shot</th>
<th>Angle</th>
<th>Long/Wide Shot</th>
<th>Medium Shot</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Close-up shot</td>
<td>Extreme close-up shot</td>
<td>Bird's eye view angle</td>
<td>Eye level angle</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Over the shoulder angle</td>
<td>Low angle</td>
<td>High angle</td>
<td>Canted angle</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cut</td>
<td>Cross-cut</td>
<td>Fade-in</td>
<td>Fade-out</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
What is a ‘shot’ in film?

- **Shot**: images that are recorded continuously; an unedited strip of film

- Click here for a slideshow!

- Click here for guided notes!

- Click here for a review/quiz!
## Emphasize the Amount of $ Spent

### Most expensive films

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rank</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Cost (est.) (millions)</th>
<th>Refs and notes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Pirates of the Caribbean: On Stranger Tides</td>
<td>2011</td>
<td>$378.5</td>
<td>[1][nb 1]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Pirates of the Caribbean: At World's End</td>
<td>2007</td>
<td>$300</td>
<td>[2][3][nb 2]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Justice League</td>
<td>2017</td>
<td>$300</td>
<td>[4][5][6]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Avengers: Age of Ultron</td>
<td>2015</td>
<td>$279.9</td>
<td>[7][nb 3]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>John Carter</td>
<td>2012</td>
<td>$263.7</td>
<td>[8][nb 4]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Tangled</td>
<td>2010</td>
<td>$260</td>
<td>[9][10][11][12]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Spider-Man 3</td>
<td>2007</td>
<td>$258</td>
<td>[13]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince</td>
<td>2009</td>
<td>$250</td>
<td>[14][15]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>The Hobbit: The Battle of the Five Armies</td>
<td>2014</td>
<td>$250</td>
<td>[16]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Batman v Superman: Dawn of Justice</td>
<td>2016</td>
<td>$250</td>
<td>[17][18][nb 5]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Captain America: Civil War</td>
<td>2016</td>
<td>$250</td>
<td>[19][20][21]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>The Fate of the Furious</td>
<td>2017</td>
<td>$250</td>
<td>[22][23][24]</td>
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</table>
Canted Angle
Heroic Journey
The Heroic Journey

... Created by Joseph Campbell

✘ Click here for HJ Google Slides!

✘ Click here for HJ notes!
  ○ (no Inception graphic organizer)
It's time to write!
The “Writing Process” Varies

Brainstorming ➔ Outlining ➔ Drafting

Click Here for Brainstorming and Outlining
The “Writing Process” Varies

Brainstorming → Outlining → Drafting
The “Writing Process” Varies

Brain-storming ➔ Outlining ➔ Drafting
The “Writing Process” Varies

- Brain-storming
- Outlining
- Drafting
Short Story Logistics

✗ No max or min amount
✗ Only requirement is to use Heroic Journey
✗ Draw upon your own writing experience to help them
✗ They struggle to stay with their story ideas
All writing is deadening if, during the hard work, we know in the end it won’t matter much.

– Grant Wiggins
Fair warning!
Revision Stations

1. Traditional Peer Edit and Feedback
2. Author's Chair
3. Written Reflection on Writing Process
4. Chat Station

[Link here]
## Single Point Rubric

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Requirements</th>
<th>2 Points</th>
<th>1 Point</th>
<th>0 Points</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>(heroic structure element)</td>
<td>Present and well explained.</td>
<td>Present, but not well explained.</td>
<td>Not present.</td>
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# Single Point Rubric

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<td>Not present.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Title</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>Has a title that is not 'short story.'</td>
<td>No title or titled is 'short story.'</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
What next?

Choose their own groups with this form.

Choose their short story and analyze it closely. Click here.
Advice for Choosing Short Stories

Setting and Characters
Can we film this reasonably with the resources we have?
Are the characters human?

Genre
Are there magic, sci-fi elements, etc...?
Are we prepared to spend time making ‘movie magic’ on that?

House Rules
No guns.
Deal with sensitive topics in a manner that is not trigger inducing.
What next? (optional)
Written Element

- Scrapbook
- Movie Recommendations
- Alphabet Book
- Character's Fears
- New Acquaintances
- Letter Exchange

(Click Here)
Student Example of Scrapbook
Visual Element

- Word Cloud
- Movie Poster
- Plot Diagram
- Promotional Website
- Mobile
- Create your own!

(Click Here)
Finally, we film.
Tips for Filming

✖ Filming outside of class?
  ○ Not required.
✖ All group members present.
✖ Communicate with me your location at all times.

✖ Please, please, please hold your phone horizontally
Tips for Filming Continued

✘ Bring a charge cord!
✘ Have a general plan.
  ○ Storyboarding?
✘ Fancy filming equipment is not necessary.
✘ Know who your actors are.
  ○ Will they be available for you when you need them?
How Do We Edit?

On Apple products, use iMovie.

On PCs, use Windows Live Movie Maker.
iMovie Hacks

- Command+B: divides your clip
- Command+C: copies the clip
- Command+V: pastes the clip
- You can voiceover in iMovie.
- Fade music in and out by dragging the ends of the sound byte.
To the polls!

I watch all of my students' trailers and pick approx. ten to compete in each category.

Each class watches the ten and votes on their picks for best overall, best sound, and best editing.

Then, all freshman ELA classes spend the next day watching the top 12 movie trailers.
Annual SFC Film Festival

- Awards for the best films!
  - Best Overall
  - Best Sound
  - Best Editing
- Invite everyone!
  - Parents, admin, other teachers, student aides
- Have a spirited emcee!
Last Year’s SFC Film Festival Winners
Writing reflectively has been shown to benefit students greatly.
Writing Reflectively

✘ Click Here for the Peer Evaluations
✘ Click Here for the Self Evaluations
✘ We also do a unit reflection essay.
THANKS!

Any questions?
andreamarshbank@gmail.com
Access to this presentation at https://tinyurl.com/y7adjvta
More movie trailer examples at https://tinyurl.com/yaaw2pua