



Multimedia – A reading form

Step 1: How to proceed when you analyse a film.

- You identify the film giving title and genre: comedy, science fiction, detective story, western, documentary, thriller, horror, fantasy, etc.
- Then you look for the name of the director.
- Give the names of the main actors in the cast.
- Find out the year in which the film was shot and released and where the production comes from: G.B., US, Italy, Poland, India, etc.
- List any awards it has received: Academy Award, Leone d'Oro, La Palme d'Or, etc.

Step 2: Now pay attention to the following elements.

- Find out where the story is set: the place and the period in which it takes place (Classical times, the Middle-Ages, contemporary time, the future etc.).
- Give a short summary of the plot.

Step 3: Then you proceed with the stylistic analysis of the film focusing on the following points.

- Photography: film making and photography go hand-in-hand; moving images in postcard-like shape are direct descendants of the art of still-photography. It is the art of capturing moving images on the screen. Do the cinematographic images help to create the right atmosphere in the film? How do you describe this atmosphere?
- Costumes: costumes supply clues to read a film, to understand the period, the setting, the people acting in it; often, especially in science fiction films where the setting is unknown, clothing is used as visual iconography that speaks to the audience. Do the costumes belong to a specific age or region? Does this help in the understanding of the plot?
- Dialogues: the dialogue is useful to define a character when it is not possible to explain it with shots of films. Hitchcock said that it was "a sound among sounds, just something that comes out of the mouths of people whose eyes tell the story in visual terms". Try to describe the dialogues, how would you define them?
- Soundtrack: it is a recorded music accompanying and synchronized to the images of a motion picture. The soundtrack help to build the tone, the atmosphere of the images on the screen. How does this music make you feel? Do these feelings conform to the story?

Step 4: At this point you can express your opinion, i.e. interpret and evaluate the film.

- Interpretation: reflection about meaning and message the director wants to convey.
- Evaluation: personal opinion on the film related to the emotions you felt watching it.

Choose a film with your teacher and watch it in class; then work together to complete the form.

Identification	
Title and genre	
Director	
Screenwriters	
Year	
Awards	
Setting and plot	
Setting	
Plot	
Stylistic analysis	
Photography	
Costumes	
Dialogues	
Soundtrack	
Your opinion	
Interpretation	
Evaluation	

