



VIEWING FILMS ACTIVELY

UNIT III

LITERARY ASPECTS OF FILM

- Those aspects that films share with literature:
 - **Plot** - Events that form a significant pattern of action with a beginning, a middle and an end. They move from one place or event to another in order to form a pattern, usually with the purpose of overcoming a conflict. characters
 - **Setting** - Setting is defined as the physical **location** and the **time** of a story. In short stories, one or both of these elements are often not defined.
 - **Themes** - The theme is a recurring social or psychological issue, like aging, violence, alienation or maturity. The author or poet weaves the theme into the plot, which is used as a vehicle to convey it. The title of the story or poem is often of significance in recognizing the theme.
 - **Symbolism**: In literature, a symbol is an object, event or a character that's used to represent an abstract idea; it is something which stands for something else.

QUESTIONS TO ASK WHEN VIEWING ON A LITERARY LEVEL:

- Who are the characters?
- What is the setting?
- What is the plot?
- From whose point of view is the story told?
- What is the film's theme?
- Are there any symbols or recurring images?

DRAMATIC ASPECTS OF FILM

Those elements film shares with live drama:

- Actors portraying characters through:
 - Dialogue
 - Non Verbal communication (Body Language)
- Setting

QUESTIONS TO ASK WHEN VIEWING ON A DRAMATIC ASPECTS:

- How effective is the acting? Why?
- How does the set affect understanding and enjoyment of the story?
- How are the costumes and makeup effective in establishing a character?

CINEMATIC ASPECTS OF FILM

- **Mise en scène** (mēz ,än 'sen): the arrangement of scenery and stage properties in a play or the setting or surroundings of an event or action.
- **Elements unique to film**
 - Shot Types
 - Sounds & Music
 - Lighting
 - Setting/Scenery
 - (Props & Costumes)

TYPES OF SHOTS



Extreme Long shot- also known as an establishing shot



Long shot- contains landscape but gives the viewer a



Mid shot- contains the characters



Close up- contains just one characters face and enables the audience to view the characters feelings



Extreme Close up- contains one part of a

QUESTIONS TO ASK WHEN VIEWING ON A CINEMATIC ASPECTS:

- What sounds or Music do you remember? What did they make you feel or think about?
- What scene has very effective or unusual editing?
- What vivid visual images did you note? What did they make you feel or think about?

THE UNDERDOG

- Rocky (1978) & McFarland USA(2015)

- Points of focus:

- The triumph of the underdog.
- Sports as motivation for character growth
- Importance of sport in film – could it work in another setting?
- Characters who seek redemption.

Activity: Create a story of an underdog using only pictures. You can use iMovie or PowerPoint. Please save it to the server to be shown to the class for critique.

SCI-FI

E.T The Extra-Terrestrial (1982), Jurassic Park (1993), Interstellar (2013)

- **Points of focus:**

- Filmmakers use of sci-fi to make observations on humanity and society.
- Escapism- The need for audience to escape into fantasy worlds.
- Progression of sci-fi concepts.
- Georges Méliès' "A Trip To The Moon"

Activity: Create a movie trailer for a film watched in class. You may use iMovie only to create this. Use pictures from google Docs and or excerpts from the movie.

COMEDY

Spaceballs (1987) – Satire/Parody, Death Becomes Her (1992)
– Dark Comedy, Blended (2014) – Romantic Comedy

Points of focus:

- How has “funny” changed since these?
- Importance of characters & situations to generate humor.
- Charlie Chaplin (brief history of comedic film)

Activity: Student groups will write a short comedy sketch.