

GUIDE TIL AT ARBEJDE MED KORTFILM I ENGELSK



Foto: Filminstituttet

Before watching the film

1. Cinematic terms

Familiarise yourself with the most important cinematic terms. Test yourself on www.quizlet.com, in return game (vendespil) or compete with your classmates on who knows most terms.

2. Theme

What associations do you get from the title of the film, from the film poster or from words your teacher gives you? Compare and discuss your associations with the one sitting next to you.

3. What might happen

Comment on the screenshot from the beginning of the film that your teacher has chosen. Comment on the atmosphere, facial expressions, relationship between people etc. Write down 2 possible scenarios of what might happen in the film.

While watching the film

1. Listen and watch

Your teacher will play the [teaser](#) of the film where you will be able to listen only to the [sounds](#).

- Describe the teaser sound, the effect it has and the atmosphere it creates. Use as many adjectives as possible.
- What genre do you expect the film to be?

Your teacher will play the same intro scene again and this time you will see the images as well.

- Point out important images in the intro.

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- b. In what ways are the images and the persons filmed and what effect does it have?
- c. Discuss whether the sound and images support each other.

2. Stop and reflect

Your teacher will stop the film at strategic places and ask you questions on a change in any of the cinematic elements. You will discuss your teacher's question with the person sitting next to you before you talk about the answers in class.

3. Write 100 words

Comment on the 2 screenshots (chosen by your teacher) from different places in the film. Write a short text in about 100 words where you explain what has happened in the intermediate time. Your text must be written in the present perfect tense.

After having watched the film

Analytical and thematic approach

1. Summarise the plot of the film

Write a five-point summary of the film in the chart below. In the first column, you are to write down headlines to different sections of the film. In the second column, you are to write more about each point. In the third column, you are to include all the elements.

	Point	Elaborate	Details
1			
2			
3			
4			
5			

2. Setting and environment

- a. Describe the physical [setting](#) of the film. Where does the film take place geographically?
- b. Describe the social environment of the film. Comment on how they live, the way they look, behave and speak. Use as many adjectives as possible.
- c. Write all the adjectives on the blackboard and divide the adjectives into a positive and a negative section.



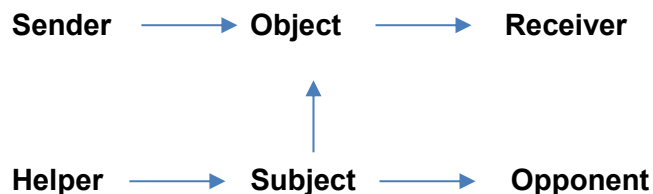
3. Characterisation

Characterise the main characters of the film.

- What do they say directly about themselves?
- How are the characters described by what they say, how they act, their language and their relation to other characters?
- Are the characters portrayed as flat or round characters? Argue for your opinions.
- Do any of the characters undergo a development? Describe the development and reason for it.
- Find a screenshot of each character in the film that says most about the character. Compare the screenshots with the one sitting next to you and argue for your choices.

4. Actantial model

Analyse the film, using the actantial mode. Place the main character at the subject's place and place the remaining characters where you think they will fit. Change the perspective two times by placing other characters at the subject's place.



5. Symbolism

Which [props](#) in the film are of symbolic significance? Make a list of the objects and their significance.

6. Theme and message

After having watched the entire film, which of the words from exercise 2 "Before watching the film" fits the theme best? Write down five arguments for your claim individually and discuss them with the person sitting next to you afterwards.

7. Putting into perspective

Compare the film to other films or texts you have seen and read that have a similar theme.

8. Discussion

In groups of 4 you are to discuss the themes of the film by arguing for one of the relevant perspectives: ethical, historical, political, economic, social, religious and that of the common man.

Cinematic approach

9. Cinematic terms in use

In groups of 4 you are to analyse one element from the list. Find specific screenshots from the film to substantiate your analysis. It is important that you comment on the effect of the examples you find. Form matrix groups afterwards and present your results for each other.

<p><u>Story units and chronology</u></p>	<p><u>shot</u>, <u>scene</u>, <u>sequence</u>, <u>editing</u>, <u>cut</u>, <u>frame</u>, <u>slow motion</u>, <u>fast motion</u>, <u>flashback</u>, <u>flashforward</u></p>	<p>How many scenes are there in the film? Is the pace high or low? Does the film use long or short cuts? What effect does it have? Is the story told in chronological order or are flashbacks and/or flashforwards used? What effect does it have?</p>
<p><u>Camera distance</u></p>	<p><u>Extreme long shot</u>, <u>full shot</u>, <u>medium long shot</u>, <u>medium close up</u>, <u>close up</u>, <u>extreme close up</u></p>	<p>Which camera distances are used in the film? Where does the camera distance change? How does the camera distance effect the atmosphere, the way we view the characters and the action?</p>
<p><u>Point of view</u></p>	<p><u>point of view shot</u>, <u>over-the-shoulder shot</u></p>	<p>Is the film filmed through the eyes of the characters or over-the-shoulder shot? Does the point of view change during the film? What effect does the point of view have on the way we see the events, the characters and the way we engage ourselves in the action?</p>
<p><u>Camera angle</u></p>	<p><u>eye level shot</u>, <u>low angle shot</u>, <u>high angle shot</u></p>	<p>What is the main camera angle in the film? Does it change during the film? What effect does it have? In what way does the camera angle effect the way we view the characters?</p>
<p><u>Camera movement</u></p>	<p><u>stationary camera</u>, <u>zoom in</u>, <u>zoom out</u>, <u>travelling shot</u>, <u>hand held camera</u></p>	<p>Characterise the camera movement. Does the camera movement change during the film? What effect does the camera movement have on the viewer, the suspense and the atmosphere of the film?</p>
<p><u>Sound, music, light and colours</u></p>	<p><u>speech/dialogue</u>, <u>voice over</u>, <u>direct sound</u>, <u>sound effects</u>, <u>underscoring</u></p>	<p>Which kinds of sound are used? Does the use of sound change during the film? What atmosphere does the sound create?</p>



		<p>What effect does the sound have?</p> <p>Characterise the music in the film.</p> <p>Is there a leitmotief in the film and what effect does it have?</p> <p>How does the music support the other cinematic elements?</p> <p>Characterise the colours and the light used.</p> <p>How does the use of light and colours underline the mood and genre of the film?</p>
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Now make a shot-to-shot analysis of the scene you find most important. A shot-to-shot analysis is done by pausing the scene shot by shot and analysing all the relevant cinematic terms.

10. Dramaturgy

Visualise with a timeline how, when and why the tension in the film is built up. Find specific timecodes and screenshots in the film of these cinematic terms: [teaser](#), [presentation](#), [elaboration](#), [point of no return](#), [conflict escalation](#), [climax](#) and [resolution](#).

11. Creative assignment

In groups of 2 create a film poster. Select a screenshot that you think reflects the film best, select a font that fits the atmosphere of the film and write a short by-line to the film poster.

Grammatical and written approach

1. Contextual grammar

Write 5 reasons why the film should receive a film prize. The text must include the following five words: **whose**, **which**, **succeed**, **information** and **media**. The use of the words should be grammatically correct. Underline the words in the text and do not change the form of the words.

2. Written assignment: Write a text in 200 words where you suggest another ending of the film.

