CLASSIC FICTION ON FILM

Lesson context: Exploring classic fiction through the film trailers for Paddington and The Hobbit: The Battle of the Five Armies.
Suitable for 9-11 years.

Sequence:

1. Identify features of author / genre style through trailer analysis
2. Discuss content and style of both trailers.
3. Answer questions about texts.
4. Explore differences in spoken and written language

Lesson objective:

Discuss and evaluate how authors use language, including figurative language, considering the impact on the audience.

Starter:

Classic fiction in context - Michael Bond (author, Paddington) and Tolkien (author, The Hobbit), both successful British authors. Share previous knowledge of both authors – what type of stories did they write? What type of stories did they write (genre)? Why have films been made of their books?

Introduction/Modelling

Share the book synopses (see resources). Read them through together and talk about genre, style and audience. Who would read these books and why? Watch the trailers and compare genre, style and audience.

Teaching and learning activity

1. Describe the style of each trailer.
2. Do they make reference to the books on which they are based?
3. Discuss the story type / audience and style of the books.
4. How do the trailers compare?
5. In what ways are the trailers trying to bring the classic tales to new audiences?
6. How do the trailers use the following tools of film language to tell the story? (Use the Film High Five prompt sheet to guide questioning)
   - camera angles and movement,

- lighting,
- colour
- music and sound)

7. Which language tools do the synopses use to convey the central story themes? Think about figurative language, descriptive phrases and audience.

8. Annotate the book synopses, describing how the written language has been translated into the film trailer. What has the trailer added to the story that is not described in the book synopsis? Why?

Differentiation:

By the end of the lesson, all pupils will know that classic texts are made into films and that these films have trailers.

Most pupils will understand that filmmakers use the tools of film language to tell the story in moving images.

Some pupils will be able to annotate a film synopsis, identifying how the written word can be transposed into moving images.

Plenary:

Share annotations of the book synopses whilst watching and pausing the trailer at relevant moments. Discuss similarities and differences between the written word and moving image.

Resources:

Compare these book synopses with the film trailers. Stick them on a large piece of paper and annotate it by drawing lines from key words and writing labels describing how the trailer has translated these words.

Synopsis : Paddington by Michael Bond

For more than five decades, stories of Paddington Bear have delighted children all over the world.

The classic story of the bear from Darkest Peru who arrived at Paddington Station with nothing but a suitcase, a half-empty jar of marmalade and a label that read, 'Please look

after this bear. Thank you.' Mr and Mrs Brown discovered him, named him Paddington and welcomed him to their home, where he has lived ever since. (Amazon.co.uk)

Synopsis : The Hobbit by J R R Tolkien

The Hobbit is the unforgettable story of Bilbo, a peace-loving hobbit, who embarks on a strange and magical adventure.

A timeless classic.

Bilbo Baggins enjoys a quiet and contented life, with no desire to travel far from the comforts of home; then one day the wizard Gandalf and a band of dwarves arrive unexpectedly and enlist his services – as a burglar – on a dangerous expedition to raid the treasure-hoard of Smaug the dragon. Bilbo's life is never to be the same again.

Seldom has any book been so widely read and loved as J. R.R. Tolkien's classic tale, 'The Hobbit'. Since its first publication in 1937 it has remained in print to delight each new generation of readers all over the world, and its hero, Bilbo Baggins, has taken his place among the ranks of the immortals of fiction. (amazon.co.uk)