Paperman

Language level: Intermediate (B1) – Upper Intermediate (B2.21)
Learner type: Teens and adults
Time: 90 minutes
Activity: Watching two short films, speaking and writing
Topic: Love and communication
Language: Narrative tenses, will and going to for predictions and adjectives to describe character and emotions
Materials: Two short films
Overview

This lesson plan is designed around 2 short films: *Paperman* an Oscar-nominated short by John Kahrs and *Signs* an award winning film by Patrick Hughes. Students write a narrative, predict a story and use adjectives to describe characters and emotions.

Step 1

Show students the picture below and ask them to discuss the following questions in pairs:

Where are the people?

Who are the people in the picture?

Do they know each other?

How do they feel?
Step 2
Tell your students that the picture is taken from a short film called *Paperman*. Put them into small groups and ask them to predict what will happen in the film. Give them 10 minutes to write their stories and then get one student from each group to read out their story.

Step 3
Show the students the film and pause at . Ask them to compare their stories with what they see in the film.

Link:
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aTLySbGoMX0&feature=youtu.be

Step 4
Ask students to discuss the following questions:
How does the young man feel?
What does he feel about his job?
What do you think he’s going to do now?
How is he going to try to communicate with the young woman?

Step 5
Show students the rest of the film and ask them to compare their predictions with what they see in the film.

Step 6
Ask students the following questions:
How did the film make you feel?
What adjectives would you use to describe the film?
Does the film have a message?

Step 7
Tell students they are going to watch the film again; this time they should down information using the following categories:
Locations
Characters
Music
Story
Actions
Emotions
Message

Show the film and then get feedback from the whole class.

Step 8
Tell students they are going to watch another film which is quite similar to Paperman. As they watch the film they should note any similarities or differences between the two films using the same categories.

Link: [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XZ-HTKq_pLg](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XZ-HTKq_pLg)

Homework

Ask students to write the story of the film using narrative tenses and as many adjectives as possible to describe the characters and their emotions throughout the film.

I hope you enjoy the films and the lesson.