A story board for the retelling of *The Masque of the Red Death* as a music video for *My Boy Builds Coffins* by Florence and the Machine

Lesson Plan

Time needed: Three Lessons

Second Years

Teachers: interactive team teaching. Both foreign and Slovene teacher contribute an equal amount of teaching and teaching material.

Resources: DVD, Copy of storyboard per student, copy of short story and lyrics of song?

Objectives:

* Students will be able to analyse a Gothic story with some focus on the creation of suspense.
* Students will gain an understanding of plot and devices of 'The Masque of The Red Death'
* Students will be able to use their understanding of the plot of 'The Masque of The Red Death' and their knowledge of some elements of the Gothic genre, in order to select appropriate material to include in their storyboard.

Lesson One

Elicit a response to the following questions:

1. What are you most afraid of? Why?
2. What is your favourite scary story/film and why?
3. Music? Images? Recurring themes?
4. What is Gothic?
5. Brainstorm features of Gothic.

Complete the Horror and Response Vocabulary Sheet

Begin reading *The Masque of the Red Death* (with the Gabriel Bryne audio)

Lesson Two

Finish reading *The Masque of the Red Death* (with the Gabriel Bryne audio) and discuss how imagery creates the setting and mood.

Watch the dramatisation:

[www.youtube.com/watch?v=yv2qL-LRBag](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yv2qL-LRBag)

Discuss themes and images.

Watch a few relevant minutes of the Vincent Price film version and discuss elements.

Lesson Three

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xJI4HzUxgx4>

Read and Listen to Florence and the Machine.

Discuss what is going on in the song, possible meaning and feelings evoked by it.

Discuss similarities.

Explain the task i.e. a story board for the retelling of *The Masque of the Red Death* as a music video to *My Boy Builds Coffins* by Florence and the Machine. The storyboard will act as the framework for actors, set designers and wardrobe.

Discuss ideas in small groups. How will they marry the two story and the song. Consider and discuss special effects.

Complete storyboard.

Reflection for *The Masque of the Red Death* Project

The lesson plan has now been used three times and has had a mixed reaction from the students. There seems to be an apathy about engaging with a project that is not worth a grade. The students I knew from Drama definitely engaged the most. This could be because a positive relationship has already been established and because the students already have a liking for this type of activity.

Most Students engaged with most elements of the task but there was disparity between how much effort they gave to the creation of the storyboard.

Students, when asked for feedback, expressed discomfort in completing a storyboard without clear instructions on what was expected. The last time this project was done I was quite clear that I wasn't going to be clear about expected outcome and I explained that I wanted the groups to decide what to include. The students were much more positive once they realised that there was no expected outcome so they couldn't fail.

Students benefited from sharing their ideas before and during the creation of the storyboard in addition to the final presentation.

Students also benefited from realising that we don't have to analyse every unknown word to appreciate a text.

The learning targets were achieved. They could have been achieved without the use of the storyboard but the approach would have been 'drier' and I think the students gain form a collaborative and creative approach.