



Yale-New Haven
Teachers Institute®

Curriculum Units by Fellows of the Yale-New Haven Teachers Institute
2005 Volume I: Stories around the World in Film and Literature

Watching, Writing, and Learning: Watching Film and Writing Film Essay as an Introduction to the Elements of Narrative Structure, Character Development, and Causal Logic

Guide for Curriculum Unit 05.01.05
by Judith J. Katz

This unit uses film to teach students the basic elements of story including plot, character development, and causal logic. Students will have the opportunity to produce a wide range of process writing including: quick-writes, film journal entries, and reflections on them. Students will also have the opportunity to write a fully realized product piece, the formal film essay, using their own film journal entries as research.

This unit comes complete with an author's note that explains how to break the unit into smaller segments in case the teacher does not have time for the full unit. This unit also comes complete with three self-assessment rubrics that can be used by the student-writer, a peer editor, and the teacher.

The four films used in this unit are: *Wallace and Gromit*, *The Wrong Trousers*, *Mr. Smith Goes to Washington*, *Smoke Signals*, and *Finding Nemo* .

(Recommended for Language Arts and Creative Writing, grades 9-12.)

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