

Brief synopsis of the film

This is the director Benjamin Quabeck's first feature film (produced in 2000 and released in 2001) based upon his eponymous novel.

It is the story of 19-year-old Daniel, who returns from a surfing holiday with friends following his successful Abitur and is looking forward to his life really getting underway. We follow Daniel, as he undertakes community service and tries to win over the love of his life for the last four years, Luca.

This is a coming-of-age story which follows but does not explicitly comment upon the path taken by its main character. As such, it fits in naturally with the AS topic 'Being a young person in German-speaking society'.

	Description of activity and suggested uses	Skills covered
Activity 1	<p>Students watch the clip from the film and decide when the events take place in relation to that point of the film.</p> <p>This would be a good starter activity after having watched the film for the first time to help students remember the plot and to introduce some vocabulary necessary for discussing the film.</p>	<p>Students use their listening and reading skills to recall the plot of the film and familiarise themselves with some vocabulary related to this film.</p> <p>A possible extension activity might be to ask students to retell the story of the film within 1-2 minutes (in order to use the vocabulary).</p>

Activity 2

For this exercise, students watch the scene where Daniel intends to make a final irresistible plea to the love of his last four years, Luca, before she leaves for a short stay in America. However, she does not see this and Daniel is again thwarted in his pursuit of Luca.

Students write a short piece reflecting upon the significance of this scene for the development of the story. A help button is available, which provides students with some pointers on what they might want to consider when answering the question. However, students should be encouraged to come up with their own individual responses, as long as they can back up their ideas with the plot of the film.

This activity lends itself to individual work. However, students could also work in pairs and produce an answer together.

A printing tool is available whereby students can submit their work to the teacher for feedback.

Students have opportunities to develop their analysis, creativity, assimilation and writing skills.

Activity 3

Students have to read the additional information provided by clicking on the “i” button (top right). Then, they select a character and write a short piece explaining the influence of each of the chosen characters on Daniel.

This activity can be easily adapted and developed further by teachers, by choosing other characters. As Daniel is the central character, all the other characters in the film have an influence upon his attempt to live life following his Abitur and in his pursuit of his first sexual encounter which he has decided should be with Luca. The relative influence of the other characters not chosen for this particular exercise could also be discussed at this point.

Once checked by the teacher and corrected, this print-out can be a very effective tool for further discussion, study or revision.

Taking the central character in the film, Daniel, students will evaluate the impact which different characters have on him, the structure and timeline of the film. Reading, writing and analytical skills are developed with this exercise.