Teacher notes - Barfuss



Brief synopsis of the film

This film (released in 2005) was directed by Til Schweiger, who also plays one of the lead characters. It is the story of Nick, who stumbles from one job to the next, trying to avoid having to rely on the help of his wealthy stepfather and brother. While working in a psychiatric clinic, Nick meets Leila who suffers from a post-traumatic stress disorder but is desperate to leave the clinic. Together they embark on a road trip that will change their lives

This is a romantic comedy which covers topics such as family relationships and problems, love, mental health and personal responsibilities. 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	Students recall basic information about one of the main characters of the film – Leila. They read questions about her and decide which answers match each question. This activity could easily be extended by asking (groups of) students to compile similar questions and answers about other characters in the film and use their work as an activity for the whole class.	Students use their reading skills and revise/develop some basic vocabulary which is relevant for the film. An obvious revision point would be question words.
Activity 2	In this activity, students have to think about the effect of one of the key scenes in the film on different characters. There are prompts for them to respond to. It can easily be adapted to other scenes in the film.	Students use their analytical and writing skills to complete this task. It will be necessary for them to have some topic-specific vocabulary for this film.

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Activity 3

Students write their views without the support of the bullet points.

There is a print button for students to submit their work to their teacher for feedback. Teacher's feedback will ensure students are moving forward.

This activity can be further discussed orally, and it can be applied to any character in the film.

Students could also be encouraged to write a similar text, as the one provided for Viktor, for other characters.

This activity offers learners an opportunity to expand their understanding of the film, by writing a short response. This time, there is no scaffolding, so students will have to compose a structured response without help.