

Brief synopsis of the film

Twelve-years-old and small for his age, he's a hardened street boy who spends more time playing chicken on the local railway tracks than at home with his family. After new boy Alfredo (Pablo Galán) befriends him at school, though, Pellet discovers that there's more to life than the beatings his father regularly inflicts on him.

By capturing the fledgling machismo of these boys (pinching cigarettes, flicking through porn magazines, playing suicidal games on the train tracks), Mañas brings us right into the heart of this story's focus on masculinity and violence, mapping out the tragedy of El Bola's family situation with precision.

This is a film that explores themes like friendship, family relations, communication, the generational gap, the two Spains, prejudice, social stigma, youth trends and issues and death.

	Description of activity and suggested uses	Skills covered
Activity 1	<p>There are several statements thought bubbles with titles inside. At the bottom of the screen, statements will appear one at a time and can be dragged to the correct place on the mind map. A check button will put a tick or a cross by the statements in the mind map.</p> <p>Each statement can be further developed in class, both in speaking and writing with teacher guidance. The printing facility can be used for future revision.</p>	Reading, writing, speaking and listening will be developed as well as skills in analysis as students become more familiar with the characters in the film.

Activity 2	<p>Use this mind map to analyse the effect Mariano has on other characters. Students can watch the clip from the film which is linked to the thought bubbles going in order clockwise from the top, middle.</p> <p>Each thought bubble can be further developed in class with teacher guidance and the print can be used for students to keep work for future revision.</p>	<p>Reading, writing, speaking and listening will be developed as well as skills in analysis as students become more familiar with the way in which events in the film develop.</p>
Activity 3	<p>Students read the extract and decide what would happen if Alfredo were removed from the film. They then write a short piece (80 words) expressing their ideas. This can be further developed in class using group/ pair work with teacher guidance and the print facility allows</p>	<p>Reading, writing, speaking and listening will be developed as well as skills in analysis as students become more familiar with the way in which different characters have an effect on the film.</p>