

Brief synopsis of the film

Volver (Pedro Almodóvar, 2006) tells the story of Raimunda, a young unemployed mother with a husband and a daughter in mid-adolescence. Since childhood she has kept a dark secret.

All the characters in this story are women who struggle to survive, even the grandmother's ghost.

A rural story, which takes Almodóvar back to his childhood, to his people, to La Mancha, and especially its humble, brave and strong women.

Almodóvar wrote Volver as "the story of three generations who survive the east wind (el viento Solano), fire, insanity, superstition and even death by means of goodness, lies and boundless vitality". It seems that death is highlighted throughout in Volver. Death is assumed with great normality, expected and it even seems to be longed for. However, the film presents different points of view about it. Throughout the film there are up to five different plots, all revolving around the theme of 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 'Irene's reappearance' 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 Paco 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 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 different characters have an effect on the film.</p>