

## 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
<b>Activity 1</b>	For the purposes of brevity and practical reasons the on-screen themes comprise only a small number of words. It is vital therefore to exploit this exercise fully, by having a class discussion once completed "on screen". Such discussion could take a theme and students have to justify why they chose it and why the director included it (e.g- what is the author trying to tell the reader about looks or prejudice? Why is there a degree of conflict in Pablo's family? Is it just something that is a normal part of life in any family or are there external factors?	This activity is a matching activity. Students match up key words or expressions to the video clips containing important themes of the film. However, there is an added challenge as this activity has a time limit.

<b>Activity 2</b>	<p>A possible starter activity with the teacher modelling and the translation completed as a whole class activity before individual students go on to translate other film reviews based on their chosen film. Students can work individually or in pairs and then can compare their completed versions to show that in translation there are often different possible versions. There is also a pop up suggested solution.</p>	<p>This is an activity designed to practise translation skills (Spanish into English). The exercise is to translate a slightly adapted but original film review. The review contains key thematic content.</p>
<b>Activity 3</b>	<p>Before writing their own review, teachers should prepare students carefully. Initially, that might involve reading and thoroughly understanding and analysing the two model reviews. Students could then discuss the relative strengths and weaknesses of the reviews. At the teacher's discretion, students could then write their own, which they could subsequently present to the class or print to hand in for teacher feedback.</p>	<p>For this activity, students have to read two different film reviews on the novel, with a view to writing their own. This activity develops reading and writing skills.</p>