

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	<p>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.</p> <p>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.</p>	<p>Students will of course use reading comprehension skills and develop their analytical skills while matching themes/ subthemes to the clips.</p>

<p>Activity 2</p>	<p>This is an activity designed to practise translation skills (German into English). The exercise is to translate the slightly adapted but original film description on the DVD cover. The description contains key thematic content.</p> <p>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>Students will develop their reading skills, as well as translation skills into English. It is also a useful task to expand their vocabulary specific to this film.</p>
<p>Activity 3</p>	<p>For this activity, students have to read two different film reviews on the film, with a view to writing their own. This activity develops reading and writing skills.</p> <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. Students should then write their own review, which they could subsequently present to the class or print to hand in for teacher feedback.</p>	<p>Another task to develop reading skills, as well as learning vocabulary that is typical for film reviews, which will help students to develop their writing skills.</p>