

ASIA-EUROPE CLASSROOM NETWORK (AEC-NET) PROJECTS FOR 2011/2012



PROJECT FACTSHEET

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COUNTRY:

Singapore

PROPOSED PROJECT NAME:

Food in Movies

PROJECT DESCRIPTION / SUMMARY

This project examines the use of food and processed food products/beverages in local or foreign movies.

In our world today, food has different representations in movies. From 'Charlie and the Chocolate factory' (where food is used as a symbol of hope and joy), to 'God of Cookery in Asia' (where food was seen as a symbol of worship and social status) – food can arguably be the one common thread that draws cultures together. The underlying theme in this project is to evoke the multifarious imprints of food on the lives of people and these food impressions are encapsulated in the movies we watch.

The project also allows a cross-cultural understanding of food used in movies as it allows senior high school students (16-19-year-olds) to collaborate on the goal of identifying different roles of food in movies and the subtle nuances in their portrayal via an open IT platform. (Prezi). The project will heighten the students' understanding by watching snippets of the following movies such as God of Cookery (HK) and Ratatouille (US).

The following themes that are related to food used in movies will be analysed:

- Love/Kinship
- Hope/Joy
- Status symbol
- Masculinity & Femininity

RATIONALE FOR THE PROJECT:

Food is a topic that is extremely important to many cultures and is central to our survival as human beings. Therefore, being the oldest possible expression of culture, it would be useful for students from Asia and Europe to look at how the topic of food has permeated the various aspects of our lives.

Movies from different countries are chosen based on its strong cultural representations of food in the films which are also effective platforms for students to understand and appreciate such cultural expressions.

EXPECTED CONTRIBUTION FROM ASIAN SCHOOLS/STUDENTS:

Student and Teacher participants have to contribute in the following areas:

Phase I (Online Access and Interaction)

Student groups will be formed between the schools across the different countries. Facebook/Wetpaint page on the project will be set up for students to join as 'members'. Registration of students (based on groupings) will also commence at the same time. This will allow intercultural communication to take place right from the start. (Arrangements will be made known to the students on Facebook.)

Task 1a: The students groups will also be assigned a movie to analyse the nature of food representation in the movie. Guiding questions will be provided. Asian genres will be explored by the European students and vice-versa. For example, 'How is food used to show love & affection in (this movie)?'; 'Can food unite or divide the characters in (this movie)?'

Task 1b: The students will be instructed to list down 1-2 similar movies and related pictures to be shared on Facebook/Wetpaint for discussion. New comments and postings will be monitored and used to facilitate interactions among the students.

Phase II (Information Sharing)

Task 2: The student groups will be assigned specific research topics that are related to food and how these ideas are communicated in the movies. The groups will discuss issues on love, hope, joy and/or femininity & masculinity (food related themes) in the selected movies. A standard template will be provided to allow students to document their discussions.

Student members are expected to do their own research and post their findings and pictures online. YOUTUBE/Video clips can also be shared. Project student leaders will manage the progress and feedback to the teachers-in-charge. Possibly, groups with similar movies will exchange their findings and re-evaluate them.

At the end of Task 2, student groups will consolidate the best discussions online for Phase III. All students will be instructed to register for Prezi so that a real-time mind mapping exercise and discussion can be carried out in the final stage.

Phase III (Knowledge Construction: Cross-cultural and Collaborative Learning)

Students will be introduced to Prezi – an online collaborative sharing platform. To jumpstart Phase III, students will contribute what they have done in Phase I & II in Prezi.

Task 3: The students will be assigned a finale movie snippet/movie clip where they will exchange ideas based on the food-related themes. Comments, discussion, visuals and multimedia resources can be updated on Prezi with a large virtual interface for students to ‘mindmap’ their learning experiences. Student participants are required to invite 3-5 friends to further value-add the comments on Prezi. Additional comments can still be made on the project facebook/wetpaint page.

EXPECTED CONTRIBUTION FROM EUROPEAN SCHOOLS/STUDENTS:

Same as the above.

MINIMUM NUMBER OF SCHOOLS/STUDENTS INVOLVED:

No. of Schools / Students : 4-5 schools / 5-10 students per school.

Students Age Group : 15-19

Level of English : Intermediate English & above.

PROPOSED DURATION OF PROJECT (PLEASE STATE TENTATIVE START AND END DATE):

Duration : 6.5 months
Start Date : January 2012
End Date : Mid-July 2012

ICT TOOLS / SOFTWARE REQUIRED:

- Facebook & YOUTUBE
- Wetpaint
- Prezi

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES NEEDED:

Movie Snippets (DVD quality):
God of Cookery and Ratatouille (more options will be provided.)

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