



LEARNING RESOURCE

WINTER'S DAUGHTER (*WINTERTOCHTER*)

Germany / Poland 2011. Director: Johannes Schmid. In German and Polish with English subtitles.

3rd Level (suitable for S1 - S3)

Curriculum for Excellence subject areas:

Modern Languages / Social Studies / Literacy and English

This Learning Resource was produced by Goethe-Institut Glasgow, in association with Glasgow Youth Film Festival. Written by Marilyn Boyd and Elena Chehade.

**GLASGOW
FILM / FESTIVAL**



EUROPA CINEMAS
MEDIA-PROGRAMME OF THE EUROPEAN UNION



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WINTER'S DAUGHTER (*WINTERTOCHTER*)

Crew

Director: Johannes Schmid

Screenplay: Thomas Schmid, Michaela Hinnenthal, Johannes Schmid, Butz Buse

Music: Michael Heilrath, Kathrin Mickiewicz

Cast

Nina Monka	Kattaka
Ursula Werner	Lene
Leon Seidel	Knäcke
Dominik Nowak	Waldek
Katharina Schubert	Margarethe
Maxim Mehmet	Daniel
Merab Ninidze	Alexej
Julia Kaminska	Danuta

Synopsis

Kattaka Weise lives in Berlin with her mother, who is expecting another baby, and her father. She is a keen speed swimmer and is friendly with Kevin 'Knäcke' who lives next door. Nearby lives a sad but kind older woman, Lene, who sometimes looks after her. It is coming up to Christmas when Kattaka answers a mysterious phone call from a man who she very soon after discovers is her 'real father'. She is very angry with her parents for not telling her about her father and she sets off with Lene and Knäcke on a trip along the Polish coast to find her 'real' father. On the way it becomes a search as well for Lene's past. Kattaka learns not only about her own origins but about the tangled history of Germans, Poles and Russians. In the second half of the movie she reaches out beyond her own situation to support and understand others. It is Christmas time and, as in the original Christmas story, there is a birth in an unusual place ...

CfE skills developed:

- working in small groups as a team
- finding things out using a variety of media
- assess the impact of an event in the past on people's lives
- prepare a presentation in English about life in a country where the language being studied is spoken
- consider questions of how to value others
- Optional: give a short presentation with support in the language being studied

Learning Resource:

WINTERS DAUGHTER (*WINTERTOCHER*)

BEFORE WATCHING THE FILM

Look at stills from the film. In groups discuss and decide:

- Where and when do you think this film takes place?
- Who do you think this film is about?
- Why are the children running in one of the pictures? Are they playing? Running away from something or someone?



When I engage with others, I can respond in ways appropriate to my role, show that I value others' contributions and use these to build upon thinking.

LIT 2-02a

I can select ideas and relevant information, organise these in an appropriate way for my purpose and use suitable vocabulary for my audience.

LIT 206a

AFTER SEEING THE FILM

Background History

Kattaka and her friends travel to Gdansk, Szczecin (pronounced sh-ch-e-tsin, in German: Stettin) and Olsztyn (pronounced Ol-sh-tin, in German: Allenstein). Olsztyn is in the Polish region of Masuria. It was once part of the Kingdom of Prussia but was colonised by Dutch, French, Flemish, Lithuanian and Scandinavian settlers. Before the Second World War it was part of Poland and home to both German-speaking and Polish-speaking peoples. Many spoke their own Masurian dialect. It was annexed by Germany during the Second World War and the Nazis tried to 'Germanify' it by moving out the Poles to the East or sending them to concentration camps. At the end of the War it suffered from the retreat of the German army and the advance of the Soviet (Russian) troops. During the Soviet period soldiers like Alexej were stationed in Poland, East Germany and East Berlin. It is now part of Poland and some German speakers still live there.

You probably know more German than you think you do!

Here is a list of words which you may hear in the film.

- First fill in the English for the ones you know
- then go back and guess at the English for as many others as you can
- finally look them up in a German - English dictionary (**TIP** look under the word and not the der, die, das article)

die Tochter	.....	der Polizist	.....
die Mutter	.....	Polen	.....
der Hafen	.....	Russland	.....
das Schiff	.....	der Kapitän	.....
das Auto	.....	der Soldat	.....
die Frühstück	.....	der Hunger	.....
die Post	.....	der Schnee	.....

I can understand how a bilingual dictionary works and use it with support.

MLAN 2-11a

I can use a bilingual dictionary independently to help me understand a new language.

MLAN 3-11a

PERSONS-CLOZE

Fill in the blanks in the texts with the words in the box below.

Hallo, mein Name ist Kattaka. Ich bin zwölf
Jahre alt. Ich wohne in
In kann sehr gut
Mein Vater kommt aus.....,
aber ich kenne ihn nicht.



Mein Name ist Kevin Knäckmann, aber alle nennen mich
..... Ich bin der
und Nachbar von Kattaka.

Guten, ich heiße
Lene Graumann. Ich bin Kattakas und
Knäckes..... Mein
..... ist sehr alt.



Tag zwölf Knäcke schwimmen Russland
Freund Berlin Nachbarin Auto

I can recognize features of words in the language I am learning and use them to make sense of vocabulary and of the connections between words.

MLAN 3-11b

LOOKING AT FILM – LIGHTING AND IMAGES

Lighting

How do you feel during the 'dark scenes'? Describe your feelings about these scenes in a short sentence.

when Kattaka answers the phone

.....

when Kattaka is lying in bed in her room

.....

when Kattaka goes to speak to Alexej on the deck on the ship

.....

I can respond to the experience of drama by discussing my thoughts and feelings. I can give and accept constructive comment on my own and others' work.

EXA 0-15a / EXA 1-15a / EXA 2-15a / EXA 3-15a

Snowy landscape scenes

There are lots of scenes in the snow. Do you find the snow in the film

pretty

cold

scary

magical

Lene thinks snow can be dangerous - why is she saying this to Kattaka and Knäcke? What is her memory of snow?

.....

.....

Understanding film - the Road Movie

There are lots of different types of film: thrillers, romantic comedies, historical dramas and so on. This film is built around a journey so it is what is called a road movie. Have you seen any other road movies or read any books built around a journey? What were the titles?

.....

.....

UNDERSTANDING FILM – SYMBOLS, MOOD, COMIC RELIEF, THEMES

There are several objects in the film which have a special importance for certain individuals. These objects can be called 'symbols'. Discuss the meaning of these symbols in small groups.

Alexej's lighter: Why is this important to Kattaka?
Why do you think her mother kept it?
Why does she give it to Kattaka?

Lene's key on a chain: Why is this important to Lene?
Why do you think she wears it on a chain around her neck?

Throughout the writing process, I can check that my writing makes sense and meets its purpose.

LIT 2-23a

Mood

Food is used in the film to set a mood: offering food, refusing food, eating together are all important.

Why do you think Kattaka's father brings her food in her bedroom?

.....
How do you think he feels?
.....

When Kattaka appears at breakfast, how do you think her parents feel? What are they hoping for?
.....
.....

I can persuade, argue, explore issues or express an opinion using relevant supporting detail and/or evidence.

LIT 2-29a

Comic Relief

This film is very sad in parts. Many sad or tense films also have funny moments to vary the mood. This is called comic relief. Which character provides comic relief:

Kattaka her dad Lene Knäcke Alexej

THEMES

Christmas

Christmas trees appear throughout the film. Can you remember all the places where we see them in the film? Tick the places where we see them:

Kattaka's home in the streets of Berlin in the Polish farmhouse
 in the Polish inn on the cargo ship

Why does Lene say that Christmas is not for her?

.....

Family

Kattaka complains that her parents should have told her before about her father. What do you think? When should they have told her? Why do you think they did not tell her? Discuss these questions in small groups.

Kattaka discovers that Alexej is also a keen speed swimmer. Do you think family relations have things in common like this? Have you noticed this in your own family? For example 'she/he is musical / artistic / impatient / hates to get up in the morning / good with animals... just like her mother/father' Has anyone ever found similarities between you and your relatives? Write a few sentences about your family similarities.

.....

.....

.....



Friendship

By the end of the film, Kattaka and Lene become friends in spite of the big age difference.

Answer the following questions:

- What do they have in common?
- When do they become friends?

Discuss your answers in small groups.



THE WORLD OF THIS FILM – PLACES, PEOPLE AND LANGUAGE

One evening Kattaka and her friends are served pirogi. Are pirogi:

dumplings

sausages

sweets?

Are they

German

Polish

Russian?



You may use the internet to find out what pirogi are.

I can independently select ideas and relevant information for different purposes, organise essential information or ideas and any supporting detail in a logical order, and use suitable vocabulary to communicate effectively with my audience. **LIT 3-06**

Crossing borders

Look at this picture of a border crossing. Crossings like this do not exist any more between Germany and Poland because they are both in the European Union. In the past one would have to show a passport and could be turned away from entering a country.

Why do you think Lene panics when she sees the Polish police?

because her van does not have an MOT

because she is afraid they will accuse her of kidnapping the children

because they remind her of her wartime escape



Harbours and Ports



Which of these cities are ports?

Berlin

Gdansk

Warsaw

Hamburg

Alexej's World

Alexej's family live in Vladivostok in Russia. In an atlas find a map of Russia and see if you can find Vladivostok. (TIP: Alexej and Kattaka say it is almost all the way to China).

The Journey

In the film Kattaka and her friends drive to Poland. They start in Berlin and they go as far as Olsztyn. They make two other stops. Find these other two cities and draw their route on the map above.

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

Who is the Winter's Daughter? Lene, Kattaka or the new baby? Discuss this in small groups.

Do you think Winter's Daughter is a good title for this film? Can you suggest another good title for the film? Discuss as a group looking at any other ideas for a film title.

USEFUL LINKS

“Wintertochter” – official website (in German)

www.wintertochter.de

Production company’s website (in German), including many pictures taken during the film shoot:

http://www.schlichtundergreifend-film.de/index.php?article_id=19

Information for teachers of German

http://www.filmernst.de/media/files/Materialien/Wintertochter_ES.pdf

Information about the Masuren region (in German and in English)

<http://www.masuren-report.de/welcome.html>

Glasgow Film Learning:

http://www.glasgowfilm.org/theatre/information/gft_learning

Goethe-Institut

<http://www.goethe.de/glasgow>