

F.10

The English-speaking world – Media

Kenneth Branaghs Film „Belfast“ – Growing up during the Troubles

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Der englisch-irische Schauspieler und Regisseur Kenneth Branagh hat seine Kindheitserlebnisse in seiner Geburtsstadt Belfast (Nordirland) in einem Film verarbeitet. Der irische Nachwuchsschauspieler Jude Hill spielt unter Branaghs Regie den neunjährigen Buddy, der im Jahr 1969 den „Troubles“ in seiner Heimatstadt ausgesetzt ist. Als Spannungen zwischen Protestanten und Katholiken ausbrechen, ist Buddys Familie gezwungen, Belfast zu verlassen und nach England zu ziehen. Der Wert des Films liegt in der überzeugenden emotionalen Tiefe der einzelnen Szenen. Anhand der Materialien setzen sich die Lernenden mit dem Inhalt, den Figuren, dem historischen Hintergrund sowie der technischen Gestaltung des Films auseinander.

Auf einen Blick

1. Stunde

Thema: Introduction to the film – The author's voice

M 1 **Introduction to “Belfast” – An interview with Kenneth Branagh /** Das Film-poster beschreiben und kommentieren; ein Video anschauen und Fragen dazu beantworten; den Begriff „Heimat“ diskutieren

Benötigt: Digitale Endgeräte und Internetzugang zum Ansehen des Videos

2.–9. Stunde

Thema: Historical background, plot, characters, important scenes

M 2 **Historical background – The Troubles in Northern Ireland /** Einen Informationstext erschließen und einen Zeitstrahl erstellen; ein Video anschauen und mithilfe von *key words* erschließen

M 3 **The plot of the film – “Belfast” scene by scene /** Die Filmhandlung anhand eines Lückentextes sichern; eine kurze Zusammenfassung des Films schreiben

M 4 **Constellation of characters – Buddy and his surroundings /** In einem Gruppenpuzzle die Hauptfiguren des Films erarbeiten und diskutieren

M 5 **The hospital scene – “The heart of the film” /** Zwei Schlüsselszenen des Films anhand einer vorgegebenen Struktur untersuchen und diskutieren

M 6 **Leaving Belfast – The decision /** Die Entscheidung der Familie, Belfast zu verlassen, diskutieren; die Funktion der Szene nach Pops Beerdigung untersuchen

Benötigt: Digitale Endgeräte und Internetzugang zum Ansehen der Videos und Filmausschnitte

10./11. Stunde

Thema: The cinematography of “Belfast”

M 7 **Analysing cinematic techniques in “Belfast”** / Die filmische Gestaltung von „Belfast“ untersuchen

Benötigt: Digitale Endgeräte zum Ansehen und Analysieren einer Szene

LEK

Thema: **Alternative ending and film review** / Ein alternatives Filmende erfinden und eine Filmkritik schreiben

Historical background – The Troubles in Northern Ireland

M 2

Tasks

1. Read the text about the development of The Troubles in Northern Ireland. Summarise it by filling in the timeline.
2. With a partner, discuss how The Troubles might have impacted everyday life. Share your ideas in class.
3. Watch the video: <https://raabe.click/Branagh-Troubles>. In the interview, Kenneth Branagh describes his childhood during The Troubles in Belfast. Think-Pair-Share: Use the key words and quotations from the video to outline how The Troubles influenced Branagh personally.

in the hot summer of 1969 violence spread on to the streets – a crowd of rioters that were coming up our street – smashing the windows of the Catholic houses – living very peacefully with our Catholic neighbours – the world turned upside down – paving stones were put onto a barricade – crossover point – innocence – enter the adult world – very dangerous and exciting – new world full of worry – the fear of God – football, a girl called Catherine and films – making sense of the world

4. Which of Branagh's personal experiences are reflected in the film "Belfast"?

Date	Event
12th–17th century	
1778	
1801	
1916	
1921	

Constellation of characters – Buddy and his surroundings

M 4



Tasks

- Work in groups, following the rules of a group puzzle. Each expert group collects information about one of the film's main characters: Buddy, Ma, Pa, Granny or Pop. In your group, prepare a profile of your chosen character. Cover these aspects as far as possible:
 - physical appearance
 - character traits
 - opinions and attitudes
 - personal history/background
 - relationships with other characters
- Share your expert knowledge about your character in your home group.
- In your home group, discuss these questions:
 - Which character changes the most during the film? Why?
 - How would you describe the family relationships in the film?

Group puzzle

- Form groups of five students. This is your **home group**. Agree on who will work on which main character (Buddy, Ma, Pa, Granny, Pop).
- In the next step, you will work on your respective character. You will do so in new groups. These are called **expert groups**.
- Each expert group consists of one person from each home group. Each expert group takes care of one character.
- Now each expert goes back to his/her home group. Each expert reports to the other group members what he/she found out in his/her expert group.
- Write down your findings.



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Leaving Belfast – The decision

M 6

Tasks

- Watch the conversation between Ma and Pa about moving to England and Pa's job offer: <https://raabe.click/moving-to-England>.
Then watch the scene in which Ma decides that they must leave Belfast: <https://raabe.click/decision-scene> (from 3:19 min.).
Outline how Ma's attitude towards leaving changes throughout the film. What makes her finally come to the decision that they must leave?
- Discuss: What will the family lose when they leave Belfast? What will they gain?
- Watch the scene in which Pa performs the song "Everlasting Love": <https://raabe.click/Everlasting-Love>.
 - When does the scene take place?
 - What is the scene's function in the film?



Pa's job offer

Pa tells Ma about a job offer in England and suggests leaving Belfast. Ma reacts very emotionally.
The scene can be found at 54:12–58:00 min. in the film.

The decision to leave Belfast

After the situation escalates, Ma finally decides that they are no longer safe in Belfast and must leave for England.
The scene can be found at 1:12:43–1:18:55 min. in the film.

"Everlasting Love"

Pa serenades his wife with an emotional rendition of the song "Everlasting Love" after Pop's funeral in a celebration of their future life.
The scene can be found at 1:24:00–1:25:36 min. in the film.