Films in Four Words

Teaching Ideas

Brian Boyd

Teachers with access to an ICT suite can use the quiz at www.grammarmancomic.com/fwfr.html with their students.

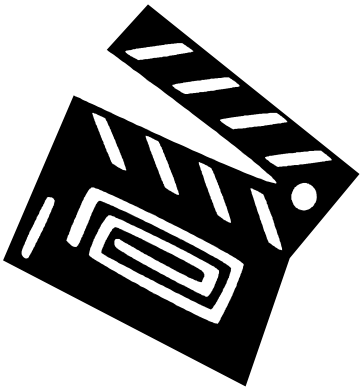
Introduce the idea of short film summaries with an easy example. Write these summaries on the board one after another:

a) Astronaut family's space accident.

b) Four heroes face Doom.

c) New powers are Fantastic.

Elicit the film they refer to (Fantastic Four).



Now tell the students they will try to identify twenty other films in the same way. Students take notebooks or paper to the ICT suite and work

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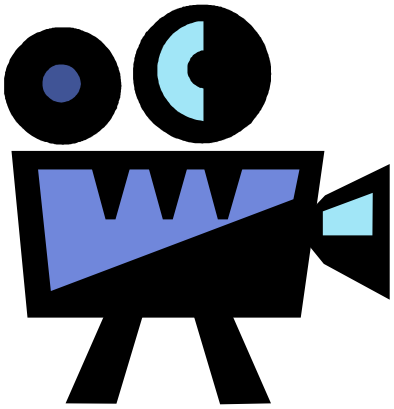
in pairs to guess the films. Encourage them to guess the films without peeking at the answers!



Back in the classroom, challenge students (again, working in pairs) to devise their own word summaries for films, using four words or less. Make a rule that they can't use the film's title in their summaries. Give them enough time to devise five or more each. You might like to precede this activity by brainstorming films that the students have seen recently.

Finally, use the reviews to play a game. Each pair is partnered with another pair to form a team of four. However, the two pairs should be positioned at opposite sides of the classroom. Pairs take turns to read a review aloud. Their partner pair must try to guess the film the review is for to score points.

I hope your students enjoy doing the quiz and have fun making their own 'films in four word' summaries. This activity is based on the website www.fwfr.com (Four Word Film Review).

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