**ENGLISH COURSE**

**Year 1 – UNIT 8 teacher : Anne SOMBART 2020-2021**

**I. a. Complete the following definitions using the words in the box**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| the cast | director | editing | plot | screenplay |
| screenwriter | special effects | soundtrack | the stars |  |

1. The putting together of sequences and scenes in a film : editing
2. A story written for a film : screenplay
3. Someone who writes stories for a film : screenwriter all the actors in a film : the stars
4. Series of events in a film that make up the main story : plot
5. Images or sounds in a film that are created by trick photography or computers : special effects
6. The music in a film : soundtrack
7. The main actors in a film : the cast
8. The person responsible for overall artistic content of film, including telling the cast what to do :

Director

b. What are the aspects of a film mentioned above that are the most important ?

The plot is essential because it is the main topic of the film. If the plot is bad, the film is bad too.

The cast is really important and can improve the film thanks to their acting skills. It can also attract the audience who likes some actors in the cast.

Editing is primordial as the film needs to be logically built.

The director is an important person because all the film is based on his point of view / directions.

The soundtrack conveys the atmosphere of the film & the feelings. It can help the audience to feel more involved in the film.

The special effects play an important part in the film, in particular in action movies & sci-fi.

**II. Reading**

**1. Read a scene from the second draft of the screen play adaptation and answer the following questions :**

1. Who is involved in the film ? Kaufman, a screenwriter, and Valerie, maybe the director.
2. Where does it take place ? It takes place in a restaurant in LA where Kaufman and Valerie are talking.
3. When does it take place ? At midday.
4. What is happening ? Kaufman and Valerie are talking together about the book he is writing, and he is really nervous because he finds Valerie attractive.
5. Why is this scene taking place ? They are talking about the adaptation of the book into a movie. Valerie wants to add a love affair in the plot but he disagrees.
6. How do the protagonists feel ? Kaufman is feeling nervous and Valerie is being the exact opposite really calm and helpful with Kaufman.

**INT. L.A. BUSINESS LUNCH RESTAURANT – MIDDAY**

Kaufman, wearing his purple sweater, sits with Valerie, an attractive woman in glasses. They pick at salads. Kaufman steals glances at her. She looks up at him. He looks away.

**KAUFMAN (V.O.)** I'm old. I'm bald. I'm repulsive.

**VALERIE** We think you're just great.

# KAUFMAN

(with studied modesty) Oh, thank you.

Valerie rubs her nose. Kaufman self-consciously rubs his nose in response.

**VALERIE** And we're thrilled you're interested.

Valerie rubs her nose again. Kaufman pulls at his nostril. Sweat slides down his forehead. Valerie watches it. Kaufman sees her watching it. She sees him seeing her watching it. She looks at her salad. He quickly wipes the sweat away.

**KAUFMAN** Oh, thanks, wow. That's nice to hear.

**VALERIE** You have a really unique voice.

**KAUFMAN** Well, thanks. That's... I appreciate that.

**VALERIE** Very talented. Really.

**KAUFMAN** Thanks. Thank you. Thanks.

# VALERIE

(looking up) So -

Kaufman is sweating a lot. He smiles, embarrassed.

**KAUFMAN** Sort of hot in here.

# VALERIE

(kindly)

Yeah, it is a bit. So, why dont you tell me your thoughts on this crazy little project of ours ?

In one motion, Kaufman wipes his forehead and pulls a book entitled The Orchid Thief from his bag.

**KAUFMAN**

First, I think it's a great book.

**VALERIE** Laroche is a fun character, isn't he ?

# KAUFMAN

It's just, I don't want to compromise by making it a Hollywood product.

**VALERIE** Oh, of course. We agree. Definitely.

Kaufman is sweating like crazy now. Valerie is quiet for a moment.

**VALERIE**

See, we thought maybe Susan Orlean and Laroche could fall in love -

# KAUFMAN

New York journalist writes about weird guy and he teaches her to love. I mean, it didn't happen, it wouldn't happen.

**2. Questions**

1. Do you think Valerie and Kaufman have the same vision for the film ? DONE
2. What do you think Kaufman means by ''a Hollywood product'' ? DONE

**3. Complete the following statements about the standard format of screenplays, using the following words :**

*action / present / centre / V.O. / ~~capital~~ /dialogue / INT. / brackets*

1. The names of characters and scene headings are written in capital letters.
2. Dialogue is written in the centre of the page.
3. Descriptions of settings and action are written in blocks which are wider than the dialogue.
4. Descriptions of how a character delivers his lines are in brackets.
5. Characters generally have little dialogue at one time.
6. Descriptions of settings and actions are written in the present tenses.
7. Voice-overs are abbreviated as V.0., external shots as EXT. and internal shots as INT .

**4. Look at the following list of features that are typical of spoken dialogues. Can you find examples of these features in the screenplay ?**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| FEATURE | EXAMPLE |
| Incomplete sentences | So - |
| Missing subjects | Very talented. Really  Sort of hot in here. |
| Repetition | Thanks. Thank you. Thanks. |
| Short sentences | Sort of hot in here.  Oh, thank you. |
| Simple linking words | So |
| Use of shared knowledge to leave things unsaid | We think you're just great. |

Can you think of other features typical of spoken conversations and screenplay dialogues ?

**III. Writing a screenplay.**

1. Most screenplays are divided into three acts. Match the acts to the descriptions.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Act 1 c  Act 2 a  Act 3 b | 1. the main conflict 2. the resolution 3. the background |

1. In pairs, think about a story you would like to tell, or a book you would like to adapt into a film. Make notes about the following headings :

The background :

How is the story set up and how are the characters introduced ?

The conflict :

What conflict(s) do the characters deal with during the story – that is, what is the problem / desire / goal at the centre of the story ?

The resolution :

How is / are the conflict(s) resolved at the end of the film ?

1. Write a scene for your film. Use standard screenplay format and make the conversation seem as natural as possible.