

GCE A LEVEL



WJEC Eduqas GCE A LEVEL in FILM STUDIES

COMPONENT 2

When The Day Breaks (Forbis/Tilby, Canada, 1999)

ANALYSIS SHEET FOR EVALUATIVE COMMENTARY



When The Day Breaks (Forbis/Tilby, Canada, 1999) - Analysis Sheet for Evaluative Commentary

Part 1: Brief Reference

What did you like about the film?	What didn't you like?
What ideas could you use? Narrative or style?	What ideas won't you use? Why?

Part 2: In-Depth Study - Narrative

Narrative Feature	Example	Your own example
Establishing protagonist - what information do we find out? How is it conveyed?	Though the film begins with the chicken character, the real protagonist is Ruby, a pig. She seems full of <i>joie de vivre</i> , singing along with opera, cheerfully skinning potatoes and executing a dance move with a chair. The following events, however, show her acute sensitivity.	
Establishing other characters - what information do we find out? How is it conveyed?	The chicken is the first character we see, having his breakfast. He seems to enjoy the quiet solitude of his life (suggested by the dripping tap).	
Establishing location (time and place) - what information do we find out? How is it conveyed?	The shots of buildings, trains, roads, traffic lights etc. show these humanised animals live in a contemporary city far from the barnyard or natural milieu we may expect.	
Creating Enigmas - what are they?	Who is the chicken? What is his job? (He seems smartly dressed) Who is the pig - and how are the two connected?	

Narrative binary oppositions	Animal vs Human: though many of the animals (rabbits, goats etc) are anthropomorphised with human clothes and behaviours, there are others (dogs, horses, pigeons) that aren't.	
Crisis - how was this conveyed?	Ruby the pig witnesses the death of the chicken. We don't see the accident, instead a range of objects that suggest the chicken's bag has been dropped and the reactions of the bystanders.	
Resolution - is it closed or open narrative?	The narrative become quite surreal after Ruby flees home in distress, travelling through power lines and through drains to connect the various other characters' lives. The loop is closed by returning to Ruby and her opening the blind to a sunny day (suggesting her good mood has been restored - a return to the original equilibrium.)	

Part 3: Meaning and Effect

What did you think was the intention of the filmmaker(s)? Intellectual message? Emotional response? Everyone in a city is connected - becoming a holistic entity - even if their lives seem isolated and atomised.	How was this achieved? The sequence where the 'camera' follows the electricity (then the waste water) through the city, connecting a disparate array of characters to the chicken's accident, and to Ruby the pig. Your own idea:
Aesthetic binary oppositions A more abstract, geometric line-drawn style of animation is used when we travel through the power lines and drains of the city.	Effect of these oppositions? The film becomes almost abstract, moving from the 'realism' of the characters' lives (e.g. reflections in appliances) to a 'peeling back' of this reality to reveal cosmic connectivity.

Inspirations - what ideas did this film give you for your own short film?

Establishing characters, setting, plot, theme	Creating enigmas
Narrative structure (non-/linear? Open/closed ending?)	Striking use of technical feature