

## BRITFILMS #10 – Accompanying material for media education

### YOU'RE UGLY TOO

Ireland 2015, 81 min

FSK rating: 6

age recommendation: 11+

Language: English/English with subtitles in German or English

Director	Mark Noonan
Script	Mark Noonan
Cinematography	Tom Comerford
Editing	Colin Campbell
Music	David Geraghty
Cast	Aiden Gillen, Lauren Kinsella, George Pistereanu, Erika Sainte and others

#### About YOU'RE UGLY TOO

She burps, curses and spits. Stacey's bad manners attract attention. Her uncle Will is the one who has to deal with this since he's now responsible for taking care of the 11-year-old girl. In order to care for Stacey, he is released early from prison on probation. Her mother died a few weeks ago and now she has no parents. For the time being, their home is in a caravan park in the Irish Midlands as they start a new life. But the initial encounter between the two relatives who barely know one another is difficult. Stacey isn't admitted to the local school because of her narcolepsy and Will can't find a job. On top of it all, he falls in love with Emily, a married woman. A severe clash arises after Stacey learns the reason why Will was sent to prison.

YOU'RE UGLY TOO tells the story of two people, who although they are related, are in fact strangers and first have to get to know each other. Both are haunted by their past, but don't talk about it – and the film doesn't try to fill the voids with explanations. Mark Noonan focuses on soulful images, with the Irish countryside immersed in a surreal light, and locates his film in places that allude to the transitional nature of the situation, like the caravan park or the railroad, leading into the unknown. Despite the film's serious topic, it never loses its sense of humour.

The following worksheets will address:

- how the relationship of the characters is portrayed
- how the lighting creates a particular atmosphere
- the meaning of the film's locations, which reflect the life circumstances of the characters

## **Publishing information**

Publisher:

AG Kino – Gilde deutscher Filmkunsttheater

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Photo credits: Pandora Film

(All stills are from the DVD of FAMILIENBANDE, published in Germany by Pandora Film. They serve as image quotations, to enable study of the film's content, and not as illustrations.)

**Will and Stacey**

What does Will think about Stacey? What does Stacey think about Will? From the perspective of each character, write down one or two sentences in reference to the following scenes:

- ▶ The first car ride to the caravan park

**What Will thinks about Stacey**



**What Stacey thinks about Will**

- ▶ Stacey confronts Will after she has discovered his secret

**What Will thinks about Stacey**



**What Stacey thinks about Will**

- ▶ Will and Stacey meet after Will has served his sentence

**What Will thinks about Stacey**



**What Stacey thinks about Will**

Compare your results. Summarize how Will and Stacey change throughout the film and how they come closer together.

### Will

Why does Will take Stacey in? Distinguish between selfish and unselfish reasons and explain your choices.

Selfish	↔	Unselfish
_____		_____
_____		_____
_____		_____
_____		_____
_____		_____
_____		_____
_____		_____
_____		_____
_____		_____
_____		_____

### Stacey

Stacey is different. She does not behave in a way one would expect of an 11-year-old girl.

- Describe Stacey's behaviour
- What would one expect of her?
- Do you like her? Justify your opinion.

### A diary entry

Write a diary entry from Stacy's perspective that could have been written by her during her stay with Will at the caravan park.

Choose one or several of the following topics:

- How she feels about life in the caravan park
- What Emily means to her
- What she longs for
- How she envisions her future
- What family means to her
- Is she okay with herself or not

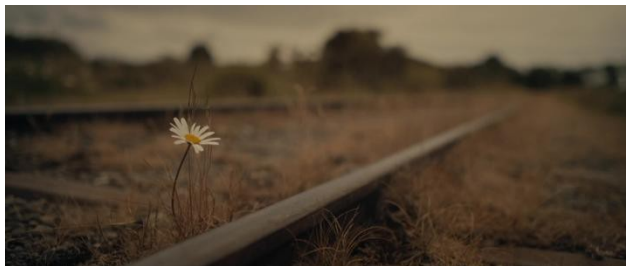
**The meaning of places**

After Stacey learns why Will was in prison we see the following image sequence.

Name the terms that come to your mind when you see those places.



1



2



3



4

What do these places tell us about Stacey's feelings in that moment?

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Stacey confronts her uncle in the car. What is the special meaning of this place for a conversation like this? How would this scene change if it were to take place at another location (for example in a field or in a restaurant)?

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How does the scene change the relationship between Will and Stacey? What did Stacey expect from Will?

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### The lighting atmosphere

Compare the following stills from scene one (picture 1) and the last one (pictures 2, 3 and 4) from YOU'RE UGLY TOO.



1



2



3



4

Which design patterns stand out?

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How does it make the characters look?

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What effect does this give the images?

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In the class, discuss together how the film portrays Ireland. How does it show the landscape? Are well-known places shown? Compare the images in the film – focusing on lighting and colour composition – with Irish tourism websites like [www.ireland.com](http://www.ireland.com) or [www.tourismireland.com](http://www.tourismireland.com)