

BRITFILMS #9 – Accompanying material for media education

PADDINGTON UK 2014, 95 min.

German certification: minimum age 0
recommended for 8 years and older
Language: English/English with German subtitles

Director	Paul King
Script	Paul King, Hamish McColl, based on the children's book series by Michael Bond
Cinematography	Erik Wilson
Editing	Mark Everson
Music	Nick Urata
Cast	Ben Wishaw, Hugh Bonneville, Sally Hawkins, Madeleine Harris, Samuel Joslin, Nicole Kidman and others

About PADDINGTON

"Please look after this bear. Thank you." This is what is written on the sign around the neck of the small bear from the darkest corner of Peru. After his home becomes too dangerous, he sets off to find the British explorer who discovered the existence of his family. Now he is alone and lost at Paddington Station in London – until Mrs Brown stops and shows some kindness. She decides to invite him to their home for the evening. At first, Mr Brown is not amused. However, one by one each family member starts to grow rather fond of the bear. While they are helping him in his search for the explorer, a new danger pops up: the bear catches the eye of a taxidermist who would like to stuff him and put him on display in the museum.

Paul King doesn't just rely on the well-known story by Michael Bond, but he develops his own style. He borrows the affectionate characterisation of the polite stranger and shows his attempts to feel at home in London using word plays and visual humour as well as well-timed slapstick sequences. King playfully depicts the Brown's home as a dollhouse with a tree painted on the staircase wall that loses its leaves depending on the mood of the film. This contributes to the magical adaptation of a novel while also dealing with the topic of immigration and the necessity to include and not fear strangers.

The following worksheets will address

- How Paddington changed the Brown family
- How Paddington perceives London and the British – and how he behaves
- How PADDINGTON makes his audience laugh through word plays, visual humour and slapstick

Publishing information

Publisher:
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10789 Berlin

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Photo credits: Studiocanal

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

How Paddington changed the Brown family

Paddington's visit changes the Brown family. Describe the changes.

The Brown family at the beginning of the film		The Brown family at the end of the film
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Discuss together with the class: How did Paddington contribute to these changes?

Looking for Paddington

One day Paddington decides to move out of the Brown's and secretly sneaks off. But the Brown's go looking for him.

In groups, come up with a missing poster that the Brown's could use to look for Paddington. The missing poster should have a sketch of Paddington as well as information about what he looks like, his distinctive characteristics, and things he likes. In your classroom create a missing poster gallery.

Welcome to London! (1)

How does Paddington experience London? Describe what is specific about each place or location and what happens there in the film:

Location	This is typical for this place	This is what happens in the film
The Tube		
Buckingham Palace		
Portobello Road/Market		
Natural History Museum		

Welcome to London! (2)

From his aunt and uncle's descriptions of London, Paddington had a very different idea of the city.

What did Aunt Lucy and Uncle Pastuzo tell Paddington about London and the British?	How does Paddington experience the people and life in London?
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Letters to Aunt Lucy

Imagine that Paddington would regularly write letters to his Aunt Lucy in Peru.

Choose one of the following moments and compose a short letter from Paddington's perspective in which he tells his Aunt Lucy how he's doing and what he has experienced in London

- When he is taken in by the Brown family after he first arrives in London
- After he leaves the Brown's house
- After he is adopted by the Brown family

Read your letters aloud to the class.

Afterwards discuss together how Paddington's perception of London changes throughout the film.

A comedy

PADDINGTON is a comedy. The film makes us laugh using word play, witty images and slapstick antics.

a) Word play: “Bear left!”



1



2



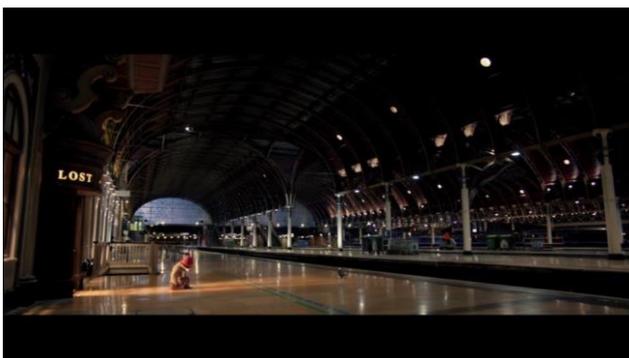
3

Explain the word play here and how it is depicted in this sequence.

How many more word plays with the word “Bear” are still possible? Come up with two possibilities in English and German.

b) Visual humour

Why do the following scenes make us laugh? What do the scenes tell us about the figures?



1



2



3



4

c) Slapstick

What does Slapstick mean? Explain the term with the help of the two stills below that show Paddington in the Brown's bathroom for the first time.

Describe the angle from which these stills were taken and explain why it makes the scene so comical.



1



2
