**Learning the Language**  
  
Use the glossary to help familiarize students with the language of film. The activities will enable students to practice learning this language and help students understand that a film is not just a story with pictures, but a different medium with its own language. You may want to use several clips or a clip reel to illustrate camera angles, types of shots, etc. If you spend a day or so early on learning the terms and their meanings, the subsequent classroom discussion will be on a much higher level.  
  
  
**Glossary**

**Types of Shots**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Long shot |  | A shot taken from a sufficient distance to show a landscape, a building, or a large crowd. |
| Medium shot |  | A shot between a long shot and a close-up that might show two people in full figure or several people from the waist up. |
| Close-up |  | A shot of one face or object that fills the screen completely. |
| Extreme close-up |  | A shot of a small object or part of a face that fills the screen. |

**Camera Angles**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| High angle |  | The camera looks down at what is being photographed. |
| Eye level |  | A shot that approximates human vision; a camera presents an object so that the line between camera and object is parallel to the ground. |
| Low angle |  | The camera looks up at what is being photographed. |

**Camera Movement**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Pan |  | The camera moves horizontally on a fixed base. |
| Tilt |  | The camera points up or down from a fixed base. |
| Boom |  | The camera moves up or down through space. |
| Tracking (dolly shot) |  | The camera moves through space on a wheeled truck (or dolly), but stays on the same plane. |
| Zoom |  | Not a camera movement but a shift in the focal length of the camera lens to give the impression that the camera is getting closer to or farther from an object. |

**Editing**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Cut |  | The most common type of transition in which one scene ends and a new one immediately begins. |
| Fade-out / Fade-in |  | One scene gradually goes dark and the new one gradually emerges from the darkness. |
| Dissolve |  | A gradual transition, in which the end of one scene is superimposed over the beginning of a new one. |
| Wipe |  | An optical effect in which one shot appears to "wipe" the preceding one from the screen. |

Adaptation used by permission from *Reel Conversations: Reading Films with Young Adults* by Alan B. Teasley and Ann Wilder. ©1997 by Alan B. Teasley and Ann Wilder. Published by Heinemann, a division of Reed Elsevier, Inc., Portsmouth, NH. All Rights Reserved.