

Topic: Romance under the Microscope

Year 9

What does the session explore?

What even is romance? What makes something romantic? Students reflect on what we see as romantic in society, and decide whether we romanticise the right things. We use the opportunity to pick something underrated that's good for our wellbeing to romanticise in the lesson.

Learning outcomes:

- To define 'romance' noun and 'romanticising' verb.
- To assess which actions we think are romantic, neutral or harmful
- To discuss the idea of romance through the lens of gender and sexuality
- To identify three feelings we'd like to get from romantic gestures
- To identify three romantic gestures that might achieve these feelings

Lesson at a glance

Introduction
What is romance?
Romance novel
New romance script

Resources needed:

PowerPoint, 'Romance Novel Excerpt' 'Romance Novel Excerpt—Questions' Romantic Gestures worksheet

Activity details

Introduction - 5 mins

Refer back to your class constitution or classroom agreement to highlight the relevant ground rules for the session.

Explain the plan for the lesson and what you'd like the students to understand or have achieved by the end, as outlined on the PowerPoint

Key delivery information

You may want to use this opportunity to place students into five groups that will work well together.

Activity details	Key delivery information
What is Romance? - 10 mins	Discussion can either take place as a whole class or in groups which then feed back.
In groups, students should discuss what they think 'romance' means and identify one example of romance.	
Flip the PowerPoint slide to the dictionary definition of romance and compare.	
Flip the PowerPoint again to reveal the definition of 'romanticising'. Get students to identify three things they think are unjustifiably romanticised.	
Romance Novel - 25 mins	
In small groups, students should read the 'Romance Novel Excerpt'.	
Then hand out the 'Romance Novel Excerpt—Questions' worksheet. This will ask groups to discuss and note their answer to the following:	
 Does this text remind you of any other romantic movies, books or music videos? How? 	
2. Is any of this romantic? Why/why not?	
3. What can this excerpt tell us about gender roles and romance?	
4. What can this excerpt tell us about sexuality and romance?	
Share the results of the discussion with the class.	

Activity details	Key delivery information
Romantic Gestures Worksheet - 15 mins	The worksheet can be completed individually, in pairs or in small groups.
Hand out Romantic Gestures worksheet. Students are prompted to think about how they would like to change the way we see romance. They are asked to consider how they would like romantic gestures to make them feel, and to come up with ideas for romantic gestures that would achieve this. Remind students that romantic gestures come in all forms but what is most important, is the feelings that these gestures provoke Clichéd gestures can be great but they often include spending money or are things that aren't possible for teenagers to do!	Encourage students to think of as many examples as possible depending on time.
Conclude lesson, thank students for their participation and hard work.	