

# MR. SMITH GOES TO WASHINGTON

## LESSON GRID “AT A GLANCE”

### Chapter 1

#### What Is a Movie?

##### LESSON 1

###### TECHNOLOGY AND STORY

- How Is a Movie Different from a Short Story?
- Watching v. Seeing
- Theme—Democracy in Action

##### LESSON 2

###### A FILM’S NARRATIVE STRUCTURE

- Act 1—The Setup
- Creative Writing—Mr. Smith’s Hat
- Acts 2 and 3—Rising and Falling Action
- Reflective Writing—A Movie That Matters to Me

##### LESSON 3

###### OUR FILM HERITAGE

- Exploring the Film Archives in the Library of Congress
- The American Newsreel
- An Introduction to Film Preservation—Why Film Deteriorates

##### TAKE 2 EXTENSION ACTIVITIES\*

- The Lincoln Allusion
  - Nominate a Film to the National Registry
  - Lesson Quizzes 1, 2, 3
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### Chapter 2

#### The Filmmaking Process

##### LESSON 1

###### THE DIRECTOR’S VISION

- Three Stages of Production and The Director’s Role
- Frank Capra’s Vision

##### LESSON 2

###### GETTING READY—PRE-PRODUCTION

- What Is a Screenplay?
- Writing Dialogue—From Fact to Fiction
- **Enrichment:** The Production Designer’s Role

##### LESSON 3

###### ON THE SET—PRODUCTION

- The Cinematographer’s Role
- The Actor’s Role
- The Reaction Shot

##### LESSON 4

###### IN THE STUDIO—POST-PRODUCTION

- The Film Editor’s Role
- The Music Director/Composer’s Role

##### TAKE 2 EXTENSION ACTIVITIES\*

- *Mr. Smith’s* Missing Scene
- Mr. Capra Goes to Washington
- Lesson Quizzes 1, 2, 3, 4

### Chapter 3

#### Film Language and Elements of Style

##### LESSON 1

###### HOW TO READ A FRAME

- Composition and Point of Emphasis
- Camera Distances and Angles

##### LESSON 2

###### HOW TO READ A SHOT

- Light and Shadow
- What’s in Motion, and Why?
- The Significance of Color

##### LESSON 3

###### EMPHASIS ON EDITING

- Real Time v. Reel Time
- Scene Transitions
- Cinematic Point of View
- How the Soundtrack Communicates

##### LESSON 4

###### PUTTING IT ALL TOGETHER—ANALYZING A SCENE

- Explicit and Implicit Information
- Mise-en-Scène

##### TAKE 2 EXTENSION ACTIVITIES\*

- Eyeballs and Camera Lenses
  - Marketing the Movie—Poster Designs
  - Lesson Quizzes 1, 2, 3, 4
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### Chapter 4

#### Historical and Cultural Contexts

##### LESSON 1

###### HOW FILMS MIRROR SOCIETY

- Time and Interpretations
- What Is a Depiction?
- Depictions of Politicians in the Film
- Media Manipulations

##### LESSON 2

###### HOW FILMS INFLUENCE SOCIETY

- The Controversy in Congress
- Fears Overseas
- When History and Culture Meet—Mr. Smith Goes to Paris

##### LESSON 3

###### WORLD WAR II AND FRANK CAPRA’S DOCUMENTARY FILM

- What Is a Documentary?
- Visual Symbolism—Maps and Metaphors
- What Is Propaganda?
- **Enrichment:** The Power of Moving Images and Sound

##### TAKE 2 EXTENSION ACTIVITIES\*

- Smoking in the 1930s
- Hold a Panel Discussion
- Lesson Quizzes 1, 2, 3