

## **MOVIES THAT ARE PART OF OUR HISTORY**

***Some parents choose movies and entertainment from their own childhood to tell their children because they find them the kindest and the most beautiful form of stories told. Whereas others enjoy the modern-day ones and wonder how one can even compare the highest quality of products by the Disney studio to old Soviet movies. Each era has its peculiar features!***

***FamTram offers you a journey, where you can remember the good old Azerbaijani films for kids!***

**“I compose a song” 1979. («Mən mahnı bəstələyirəm»)**

This movie is a story of a little girl from beautiful village in Karabakh, she has a beautiful voice and everyday comes up with new melodies and songs that come to her imagination. One day, a representative of a music boarding school in the region capital arrives at one of the Azerbaijani villages in Karabakh to source for talented children. He finds help in a local **aksakal** (elder) and the musician-kamancha player Bahman **Dayi** (uncle). There are many skilled children in the village, but the most talented of them all is the 10-year-old daughter of the miller, everybody’s favorite, the sweet-voiced Sona. They are ready to enroll her in the school without any trials, but her father is adamant against the idea – he does not want Sona to become a singer. All the persuasions are in vain. Will Sona sing?



## “Stepmother” («Ögey ana»)

In one of Azerbaijani villages, where Ismail lives, Ismail’s father decides to remarry and bring a new wife, Dilara, who is a doctor. Dilara has a daughter Jamilia who is Ismail’s age-mate and now stepsister. Ismail is famous for his mischiefs around the village. He teases Jamilia all the time and does not like his stepmother. But he starts to hate her even more, when Dilara shows Ismail’s father his school diary, which is full of bad grades. Later on, Dilara was able to win Ismail’s heart through kindness. The moral of the film, it shows how a child’s heart will open to a new person, who will not be a stepmother, but a true mom.



### Class activities

1. Show snippets of the movie in class (available clips are in Azerbaijani language), but ask kids to describe the scene and what they noticed that are some of the actions.
2. What are the morals from the stories?
3. Can you identify the time or period when the movie was produced?
4. What are some of the significant events in Azerbaijan?

**“I remember you, teacher” / “Our Jabish Teacher” («Bizim Cəbiş müəllim»)**

Magsud Ibrahimbeyov bases the film on “The 1001st Night of War” a well-known story. This touching movie speaks of the fate of a schoolteacher in Baku during the Great Patriotic War. Jabish-Teacher, as he was fondly called, wanted to volunteer for frontline duty, but was forced to stay, as he was unfit to serve due to his bad eyesight. But he still managed to help the fighters. The moral of the story is that irrespective of our disabilities or disadvantaged positions, we can always find a purpose to accomplish something.



### **“Asif, Vasif, Agasif” («Asif, Vasif, Ağasif»)**

It is a straightforward movie released in 1983 by a Soviet director Rasim Ismailov, which tells the tale of three little brothers, whose mother simply does not agree to send them to a kindergarten. These kids are great dreamers and showed big imaginations. It is a simple, and somewhat educative and light film for young audiences.

The little brothers in the movie spend all their time together and understand each other without words. Nevertheless, they too sometimes get into little quarrels, as each one of them wants to seem more grownup and be in charge over the others. The boys can turn anything, even the simplest of activities, into a full-fledged exciting adventure. At the same time, they are extremely busy taking all sorts of classes, such as acrobatics, English, music and swimming, as their mother tries to make each day vibrant and efficient for them. Despite these, her sons still show similar traits as their age-mates and are not always obedient. The parents soon came to the realization that their family is raising confident and independent sons, who are quite ready to go to the kindergarten.

### **“Black Girl” («Qaraca Qız»)**

This is a very interesting movie directed by Shamil Mahmudbeyov and Rufat Shabanov, filmed at “Azerbaijan Film” studio. The film talks about the tragic life of a brave and kind orphan girl, Tutu. Little Tutu’s parents died as a result of an earthquake and some strolling gypsy-garachi actors picked her up. She soon becomes a part of their world, the world of music and acting. While her adoptive father shows stunts with a bear, Tutu dances, but once, when her drunk father angers the bear, it kills him. The movie has a bit of tragedy in it, but Tutu was able to pick herself up despite the misfortune that befalls her family.

### **“The Magic Robe” («Sehirli xalat»)**

The famous magician Io-Kio visits some pioneers on a holiday and gives them “a magic” robe. While wearing the robe, one can travel both to the past and the future. The film talks of the incredible adventures of schoolchildren Rashid and Zarifa, when they try the “magic” robe on.

### **“Secret of a Fortress” («Bir Qalanin Sirri»)**

People called the fortress of the cruel tyrant Simnar Khan a “bloody fortress” for all the crimes, committed within its walls. Simnar Khan took away peasants’ lands and did not give them an extra drop of water. His vizier spread rumors that the

rock with water within, was in fact a monstrous bewitched dragon, who would turn everyone who dared touch the water, into stone. Scientist Eldostu had worked for many hours to invent a composition that would manage to dissolve the rock. He and his student Metanet dreamt of the day, when people would finally get water and with it, life itself. Metanet picked thousands of herbs and Eldostu studied hundreds of books before their composition was finally ready. When Simnar Khan found out about this, he imprisoned Eldostu in his “bloody fortress”. But Eldostu would not give the secret away.

Metanet was confronted, but she also kept silent. Enraged, the vizier turned her into stone. The hands of the scientist, who had done so much for people, were also rendered impotent. Craftsman Elshan was in love with Metanet. It was said that he has the strength of the legendary Farhad. No rocks, dragons, not even Simnar and his vizier could withstand his pickaxe. Seeing what had happened, his love for the beautiful Metanet increased his strength tenfold. The impregnable rock vanished, the huge dragon went away, and the boisterous and translucent waters refreshed the exhausted soils, bringing with it joy to all people.

### **“Lion Runs Away From Home” («Şir Evdən Getdi»)**

An ordinary African lion lived in a zoo in Azerbaijan. He lived in a cage and was fed with raw meat every day. The guests at the zoo admired his fancy look. But, this was no ordinary lion at all, as he understood human language, loved children and was very smart overall. He was treated well, the zoo was his home and it would seem there was nothing else he would want. Nevertheless, the lion had been thinking of the lands, where his ancestors roamed free. Africa! People tell so many amazing things about that place! Africa is beautiful, always sunny and there he has a family, animals that look just like him. The lion decided to break free from the zoo to try and reach his true motherland. But was he right to do so? Will a wild animal, who grew up in the city and is not accustomed to the challenges of an independent life, can he adapt to another way of living? Nevertheless, our hero took the risk and went away on his journey.

### **“Shared Bread” («Şərikli çörək»)**

The movie is set towards the end of the Great Patriotic War. Vagif, a boy in one of the neighborhoods in Baku, is left alone at home for a couple of days. He has lost his bread tickets. He has to carry water for his neighbors and sell water at the open market to earn enough for a piece of bread. Vagif loses a loved one. But through all the challenges the boy had to face, his friends were there to support and share their last piece of bread with him.

## Vocabulary

Keywords to remember: entertainment, melody, imagination, representatives, boarding school, miller, mischief, stepmother, accomplish, disability, quarrels, tragedy, accustomed, incredible, ancestors, adoptive, impregnable, ordinary

## Questions

1. In which year was "I compose a song" produced?
2. What is the name of the Azerbaijani village where the movie was set?
3. What is the name of the main character?
4. What special and outstanding talent does she have?
5. How old was she when she was spotted for her talents?
6. What happened after Ismail's mother passed away?
7. Who are Ismail's stepmother and stepsister?
8. What well-known story was the movie "I remember you, teacher" based on?
9. Why couldn't Jabish-Teacher enroll into the army?
10. Which movie was released in 1983?
11. Who were the directors of the movie "Black Girl"?
12. What is the name of the girl in the movie Black Girl?
13. Who is the villain in the movie "Secrets of a Fortress" and who is the hero?

## Class activities:

1. Explain to the class the process of producing a movie. Define some of the key terms: actors, producers, directors, photographers, cast, scenes, settings, soundtrack, script, and effects.
2. Explain a tragedy and a comedy. Ask the class to write two stories, one with a tragic ending and another with a comedic ending.
3. Project: ask the kids to write a short story that they will adapt into a movie. Or students should take photos of different scenes and activities and put them together to tell a story through a movie.

<b>Subject:</b>  Social Students	<b>Class:</b>  Grade 4 / 5 / 6	<b>Date:</b>	<b>Lesson:</b>	<b>Time:</b>  1 hour	<b>No. of pupils:</b>  (boys/girls)	<b>Teacher</b>
<b>Topic/Context</b>  Movies that are part of our history			<b>Prior learning/experience</b>  Basic knowledge of English Language in the classroom			
<b>Resources</b>  Materials prepared for the purpose of teaching English through social studies			<b>Focus of observation (if appropriate)</b>  1. Learning English language through social studies 2. Connecting our societies with the rest of the world			
<b>Learning Objectives/Intentions:</b> <b>By the end of the lesson students will be able to:</b>  1. Telling a nations story through movies 2. The act of storytelling through movies to show emotions			<b>Success Criteria /How Progress will be demonstrated:</b>  1. Student ability to make connection between history and society over different centuries 2. Appreciation of cities in Azerbaijan and it's peculiar features			

<b>Clock Time</b>	<b>Learning Activity (TS3)</b>	<b>Key Questions (TS4)</b>	<b>Differentiation (TS5)</b>	<b>Assessment Opportunities (TS6)</b>
	<b>Starter/Bell Work (Where appropriate):</b>  LA1: Welcome student to the lesson; attendance and messages LA2: Review of previous lessons	How has our knowledge of previous lessons helped our understanding?	Some students might be new to the class, revising past classwork help them to connect with the lesson	Retentiveness of past lessons; producing text of previous homework
	<b>Main Activities:</b>  LA3: Show excerpt from the movies, Discuss the movies in class and the moral messages:  <i>Love; fear; betrayal; forgiveness; loneliness</i>	How does a movie director promote a message through films? What are some of the emotions (adjectives) that we know	Students should already be family with adjectives from previous lessons	Class participation and engagement
	<b>Plenary/Review:</b>  LA4: Share various regionally movies and other global movies with positive messages.  LA5: Keywords and vocabularies	How do movies tell a story? What are the important elements in the movies? What are the various roles – scriptwriters, editors, producers, casts, etc.	Students should be able to share their knowledge of their favourite films and why these are some of their preferences.	Critical thinking
	<b>Homework /Independent Learning</b>  LA6: Post-reading questions	Can students find the answers to questions from reading the passage?	How can students show understanding and connect to learning objectives	Research ability

