

**T H E   O S C A R   –   T H E  
A W A R D**

**HIGHLIGHTING THE PERSONALITY OF  
FILM PRODUCER  
BRANKO LUSTIG,**

***LESSON PLAN FOR 8<sup>TH</sup> GRADE STUDENTS***

DEVELOPED AS PART OF THE  
***TEACHING WITH TESTIMONY IN THE 21<sup>ST</sup> CENTURY*** –  
PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM OF THE  
**USC SHOAH FOUNDATION**

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**Hódmezővásárhely, Hungary, 2012-2013.**

**School:** Szőnyi Benjámín Primary School of the Reformed Church, Hódmezővásárhely

**Class:** 8<sup>th</sup> grade

**Number of lessons:** 3

**Topic:** Oscar – The Award

**Sources:**

- 1) USC Shoah Foundation Visual History Archive – segments from the testimony of Branko Lustig;
- 3) Youtube ([www.youtube.com](http://www.youtube.com)):
  - *Gladiator* trailer,
  - *Schindler's List* trailer,
  - The Oscars gala in 1994.

**Lesson objectives:**

- 1) To show the personality of film producer Branko Lustig;
- 2) To introduce the Academy Award;
- 3) To introduce the movie *Schindler's List*;
- 4) To develop reading skills – prediction, skimming, scanning, inferring;
- 5) To develop listening skills – prediction, gist, listening for specific information, inference;
- 6) To develop speaking skills – fluency, accuracy, practice.
- 7) To initiate discussion about choices and consequences of our actions

**Language learning outcomes:**

- 1) Introducing and practicing new vocabulary;
- 2) Revising previously taught vocabulary;
- 3) Explaining new knowledge;
- 3) Using new knowledge.

**Teaching materials:**

Internet, computer, projector, blackboard, paper, glue, scissors, plasticine, water colour, crayon, coloured pencils, pens, notebook, video-testimony clips

The aim of the lesson is to use the USC Shoah Foundation database in the English language class. The lesson plan introduced here is part of the teaching process in the 8<sup>th</sup> grade of elementary school. I intend to show a way of how the interviews of Holocaust survivors can be the main sources and goals of foreign language teaching nowadays in Hungary.

The year of 2012 was important for a famous Jewish-American film producer called Branko Lustig. He was born in 1932 in Osijek (former Yugoslavia). So, he celebrated his 80<sup>th</sup> birthday in 2012. During the Second World War he was deported to concentration camps, and later he moved to the United States of America and started working in the film industry. Among other awards, as a producer he won two Academy Awards for two well-known movies: *Schindler's List* and *Gladiator*.

2013 was also a jubilee. It was a jubilee in the existence of The Oscars. The first statues were handed out in the year of 1929, so the gala in 2013 was the 85<sup>th</sup> ceremony in the history of the Film Academy Award.

The film of *Schindler's List* was shown in 1993, it had its twentieth anniversary in 2013. This movie won 7 Oscars, 3 Golden Globe Awards and 7 BAFTA Awards. The story is about the Second World War and highlights the role of Oskar Schindler in saving Jewish lives in the Holocaust. One of the producers of the film is Branko Lustig.

The topic is about the Academy Award, the top honour of the film business. This theme is perambulated from three aspects: 1) Branko Lustig; 2) The Oscars itself; and 3) the *Schindler's List* movie.

The targeted age group is 8<sup>th</sup> graders. The students are 14 and 15 years of age. They learn about the Second World War, the concentration camps, the Jews and the discrimination from numerous viewpoints, however, they are not faced with the question what would have happened if nobody had been killed. They do not discuss the loss, and not only the loss of people but the loss of possibilities, too. What is more, we have to direct students' attention to the consequences of their acts.

Children learn English as their second language for years, so they are able to understand on-going speech in English. The topic is interesting and adequate to their age. The students need some precognition in the area and they have the chance to make research on the subject at the same time.