



Exploring Non-Literary Texts

Short Film

Official video for Katie Taylor's farewell fight at Croke Park
featuring actor Barry Keoghan.

Background

This short promotional film celebrates Katie Taylor's journey and achievements in boxing. Narrated by Barry Keoghan, it combines spoken language, image, sound and editing to construct a particular representation of Taylor and her significance.

Please note:

- The following tasks might be completed over a series of lessons.
- You may like to adapt and adjust the tasks to suit your context.
- Please note that this text may cover themes which could be considered sensitive or controversial. You may wish to consult with our READY Framework to support you in your study.



KATIE TAYLOR

Curriculum Connections...

- Critical literacy and media literacy
- Gender and representation
- Film and multimodal techniques
- Creative writing and performance
- Oral language
- Character and archetype
- Personal and reflective writing

Before you watch... (Teacher Guidance)

1. Activating Prior Knowledge

Invite students to share what they already know about Katie Taylor.

- a. Give students one minute to write what they already know or think about Katie Taylor, and where those ideas came from (for example, news, social media, family or sport). Complete a 'Turn and Talk' and invite pairs to share one idea or question with the class.
- b. Follow up by asking: "How might the source of an image or story influence the impression we form of her?"

2. Agree/Disagree Discussion

Before viewing, invite students to respond to statements linked to the film's key ideas. Encourage them to choose and justify a position, then revisit their responses afterwards to consider whether the film challenged, reinforced or complicated their views.

- a. Successful people have a responsibility to lead by example.
- b. Where you come from is an important part of who you become.
- c. Returning home is the perfect ending to a successful career.
- d. Katie Taylor's greatest achievement is what she has done for women's sport rather than what she has won herself.
- e. Ireland celebrates its sporting heroes more than its heroes in other areas.



As you watch...



**Click on image above to
access short film**

1. Exploring Spoken Language

Invite students to consider Barry Keoghan's narration. Guide them in examining aspects such as word choice, tone, pace and delivery, and how these contribute to the overall impact of the film.

2. Imagery and Symbolism

Invite students to explore the imagery and symbolism used in the narration, particularly references to paths, journeys, home and storytelling. Encourage them to consider what these images might represent and how they help to shape the film's presentation of Katie Taylor's career, identity and legacy.

3. Juxtaposition

Invite students to develop a theory about why the film repeatedly cross-cuts between the black-and-white footage of Barry Keoghan and the footage of Katie Taylor. Encourage them to consider what this contrast might suggest or symbolise, recognising that there may be more than one valid interpretation.

4. Reframing "Once Upon a Time"

Invite students to consider why the film ends with "Once upon a time" rather than begins with it. Encourage them to explore how this challenges a familiar storytelling convention and what it might suggest about Katie Taylor's legacy and the stories that will follow.

5. Introducing Katie

Invite students to consider how Katie Taylor is introduced at the beginning of the film. Guide them in examining how the camera, narration and withholding of information create a sense of mystery around her identity, and encourage them to consider why the filmmakers may have chosen to introduce her in this way.

After You Watch - Extended writing opportunities

1. Celebrating Achievement

Invite students to create a piece that celebrates the achievements or impact of Katie Taylor or another person they consider significant. Students might write a speech, feature article, profile or tribute. Encourage them to make purposeful choices about audience, tone and language.

2. Coming Full Circle

Invite students to explore the idea that *“Most journeys begin at home. The rare ones end there too.”* Encourage them to create a short story in which a character comes full circle, returning either physically or metaphorically to where they began. Guide students to consider how the character’s experiences might change the meaning of that return.

3. Reinventing the Familiar

Invite students to experiment in a genre of their choice with clichés or familiar sayings by using them in unexpected ways. Drawing on the film’s use of “Once upon a time” at the end of Katie Taylor’s story, encourage students to relocate or reframe familiar expressions so that they challenge expectations or take on new meaning.

4. Creating a Promotional Poster

Invite students to design a poster promoting Katie Taylor’s Croke Park fight, or another event of their choice. Encourage them to consider what information is essential and what viewers should notice first. Ask them to identify their intended audience and make purposeful choices about images, colour, font, layout, slogan and key information to attract that audience and create excitement. Students may like to present their posters to the class and reflect on their design choices.

5. Tracing the Journey Home

“Is there a final chapter worthy of everything that came before?” Invite students to research Katie Taylor’s career and trace her journey from Bray to Croke Park (or a person of choice). Ask them to identify key milestones, verify information using reliable sources and decide which moments best illustrate the development of her career and legacy. Students may communicate their research through a timeline, infographic, presentation or another suitable format.

Complementary Text Recommendations

- *Spider-Man: Into the Spider-Verse* (JC) – Heroism and identity
- *If I Ever Have Girls* by Daragh Fleming – Gender roles and expectations
- *Small Things Like These* (SC) – Women, power and Irish society
- *I’ll Show You How Great I Am* by Muhammad Ali – Ambition and greatness
- *Uncle in the Drawing Room* (SC) – Gender roles
- *The Banshees of Inisherin* (SC) – Masculinity and identity
- *Hamilton* (JC) – Ambition and legacy
- *Lidl Ireland: In Katie’s Corner* – Women in sport and representation