

The Language of Film

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Film: The Pebble and the Boy

Director: Chris Green

Stars: Patrick McNamee, Sacha Parkinson, Max Boast, Patsy Kensit

Genre: Drama

Run time: 1hr 41min

Rated: 15

Rating: 3/5

The Pebble & the Boy



The Pebble And The Boy is a **retrospective** tribute to mod culture wrapped up in a feel good story about a young lad wanting to take his father's **ashes** from Manchester to Brighton on the back of his old mod styled Lambretta scooter.

Due to his recently deceased dad's obsession with all things **mod**, John, his son, wants to take his ashes to Brighton on the scooter left to him. He **sets off** for Brighton, despite his mum's disapproval but doesn't get far before the bike breaks down. With the help of a pal of his dad's, it's not long before he's back on the road this time with the daughter and fellow scooter rider Nicki. The swearing busty blonde modette **lured** by the tickets of a Paul Weller concert and the sense of adventure leads John astray for a succession of **capers** on their pilgrimage to Brighton. They meet with more of his dad's old mod acquaintances including Ronnie and his wife who all join in on the tributes to Phil and the good old mod days, full of girls, scooters, fashion and music. They get back on the road this time with Ronnie's son, and needless to say after numerous false starts and more peculiar meetings John and his gang make it to Brighton.

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Written and directed by Chris Green, it's a tribute to the mod era loaded with mod references including, like the most famous mod movie of them all *Quadrophenia*, a **nod** to the infamous bank holiday fights between the mods and the rockers at the Battle of Brighton Beach in the 60s.

The **baffling** plot **resolutions** and terrible scooter riding can mostly be forgiven in its attempt to revive some mod nostalgia. All the iconic mod imagery is there with the scooters, the parkers and sports casual wear, and of course the sound track delivers its own tribute with plenty of hits from the Modfather himself Paul Weller in his various **guises** from the Jam to the Style Council and his solo hits too including the title track "*The Pebble and the Boy*".

Similar films:

Quadrophenia (1979): Dir: Franc Roddam; Stars: Phil Daniels, Leslie Ash

Exercises:

A. Questions True or False:

1. The boy wants to take a friend to Brighton? T/F?
2. His mum thinks it is a great idea? T/F?
3. They visit some of his dad's friends along the way? T/F?
4. Nicki wants to go to a pop concert in Brighton? T/F?
5. It's a film dedication to the fashion and style of the mod period? T/F?
6. The title of the soundtrack is from the Codfather? T/F?

B. Vocabulary / Phrases Match

1. retrospective	a. outcomes
2. ashes	b. to leave
3. mod	c. adventures
4. set off	d. attracted to
5. lured	e. human remains
6. capers	f. appearances
7. a nod to	g. look back at
8. baffling	h. reference to
9. resolutions	i. fashion group
10. guises	j. confusing

C. Discussion Questions:

1. What can you see in the picture?
2. Have you ever taken a long journey on a bike anywhere?
3. Where would you go if you could go on a long road trip? Why?
4. Have you heard of the mods and the rockers?
5. What have been some fashion and music eras you know?

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D. Pronunciation & Listening Exercise:

a. Listen & practise your pronunciation (see *worksheet webpage* for download links).

1. *The Pebble And The Boy* is a retrospective tribute to mod culture.
2. He sets off for Brighton despite his mum's disapproval.
3. A nod to the infamous bank holiday fights between the mods and the rockers

b. Listen to the text and fill the missing gaps (see text below).

(see *worksheet webpage* for download links)

E. Writing tasks:

1. Write a travel plan of a journey from your home town to another city.

Answers:

A. True or False Questions:

1. F 2. F 3. T 4. T 5. T 6. F

B. Vocabulary Definitions:

1g, 2e, 3i, 4b, 5d, 6c, 7h, 8j, 9a, 10f

C. Listening Gap Fill

1. obsession 2. breaks down 3. false starts 4. Bank holiday 5. sound track

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Listening Gap Fill

The Pebble & the Boy

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Due to his recently deceased dad's 1. _____ with all things mod, John, his son, wants to take his ashes to Brighton on the scooter left to him. He sets off for Brighton, despite his mum's disapproval but doesn't get far before the bike 2. _____ . With the help of a pal of his dad's, it's not long before he's back on the road this time with the daughter and fellow scooter rider Nicki. The swearing busty blonde modette lured by the tickets of a Paul Weller concert and the sense of adventure leads John astray for a succession of capers on their pilgrimage to Brighton. They meet with more of his dad's old mod acquaintances including Ronnie and his wife who all join in on the tributes to Phil and the good old mod days, full of girls, scooters, fashion and music. They get back on the road this time with Ronnie's son, and needless to say after numerous 3. _____ and more peculiar meetings John and his gang make it to Brighton.

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The baffling plot resolutions and terrible scooter riding can mostly be forgiven in its attempt to revive some mod nostalgia. All the iconic mod imagery is there with the scooters, the parkers and sports casual wear, and of course the 5. _____ delivers its own tribute with plenty of hits from the Modfather himself Paul Weller in his various guises from the Jam to the Style Council and his solo hits too including the title track "*The Pebble and the Boy*".