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SL51. Short Film: *Bao*

Student Name: _____ Student ID Number: _____

Instructor: _____ Level: _____ Date: _____

For media links in this activity, visit [the LLC ESL Tutoring website for Upper Level SDLAs](#). Find your SDLA number to see all the resources to finish your SDLA.

Section 1: Introduction

In the United States and other Western countries, it's often thought that a parent's job is to raise their children to become independent and leave home. By contrast, in many Asian cultures, it's believed that a parent's job is to make their children so comfortable at home that they never want to leave. While American children are traditionally expected to move out of their parent's home at age 18, children in other cultures might be expected to live with their parents until they are married sometime in their 20s.

- What was expected of you as a child/young adult? At what age did your parents expect you to leave their home? When did you leave their home (or when will you)?

- If you are a parent, at what age do you expect your children to move out of your home?



In this SDLA, you will watch a short film that explores the relationship between children and parents as children get older. You will also think about the relationship between family and food.





Section 2: Family and Food

In Chinese, *bao* has two meanings. It can refer to *baozi*, a dumpling stuffed with meat and vegetables, but it also means “something precious.” A parent may even refer to their child as a little *bao bao*. In English, parents might call their children (or pets) *pumpkin* or *cupcake*. Do you know of other common food words that can be used to describe children or pets (in English or another language)?



What is the role of food in family in your home culture? Do families usually eat together at a table? What are some traditional foods for holidays and family gatherings?

Section 3: Before You Watch



The director of *Bao*, Domee Shi, was the first woman to ever direct a short film for Pixar, the prominent animation studio that created films like *The Incredibles*, *Up*, and *Toy Story*. Domee was inspired to create *Bao* by her own experience growing up in Canada as the only child of Chinese parents. Domee and her parents immigrated to Canada when she was just two years old.

You will watch *Bao* in Section 4. This film helps capture an experience that is familiar to many immigrant families, Chinese or not. *Bao* won the Oscar for Best Animated Short Film in 2019.





Predict the Plot

Below are photos taken from the short film you are going to watch. **Before you watch the film**, look at the photos below and guess what will happen in the film. Write your predictions in the boxes.



1. _____



3. _____



2. _____



4. _____





5. _____



7. _____



6. _____



8. _____





Section 4: Watch the Film

Part 1: [Watch the Film](#)



Part 2: Describe the Action

Short films like *Bao* can tell powerful stories with no words. In fact, Pixar, the studio that produced *Bao*, is famous for its wordless emotional storytelling. However, for people who cannot see, appreciating these films can be a challenge, so filmmakers will often release audio descriptions for people who want to enjoy the story even though they cannot see it.

Watch [a part of the film](#) again. Write a description [of what happens in this clip](#).

After you write, compare your description with the [audio description created by Pixar](#). In what ways are the two descriptions similar or different?





Section 5: After You Watch

Write your answers to the following questions and be ready to discuss them with the tutor.

What is the film about?

Why doesn't the mother want Bao to play with the boys at the park?

Why does the mother cook for Bao after they have a fight?

Why does the mother eat Bao?

The father is mostly absent from the film. Why do you think the director chose to leave him out?

Do you sympathize (share feeling) more with the mother or the son? Explain your answer.





What do you think will happen to the mother, son, and the rest of the family after the end of the film?





Section 6: What Did I Learn

Complete this table BEFORE meeting with a tutor.

Communication Skill	I can't do this YET. 	I can do this WITH help. 	I can do this WITHOUT help. 	I can TEACH this to a classmate. 
I can talk about the relationship between food and family.				
I can make predictions about a story based on pictures.				
I can write a description of part of a film.				
I can talk about the story and ideas in a short film that has very little dialogue (speaking between characters).				

Here are some words/phrases I need to practice.

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Good Job!

Now make an appointment
with a tutor on the LLC ESL Tutoring Website
(www.mtsac.edu/llc/passportrewards/llctutoring).








Section 7: Practice with a Tutor!

After completing the self-assessment, meet with a tutor and give this completed SDLA to the tutor. The tutor will give you feedback.

Grading Rubric

Possible Points	Need Practice  (0-1 Point)	Good Job  (2-3 Points)	Excellent Work  (4-5 Points)
Content	Not enough information provided in responses and often does not use correct vocabulary.	Provides most important information in responses and some of the time uses correct vocabulary.	Provides all necessary information in responses and most of the time uses correct vocabulary.
Skill: Speaking	More than 6 mistakes saying words; needs guessing more than 3 times.	Not more than 5 mistakes saying words; needs guessing on 1-2 words or sentences.	Not more than 2 mistakes saying words; needs no guess about meaning.
Oral Fluency	Speaks mostly in phrases, individual words; many pauses.	Sometimes speaks in complete sentences; several pauses.	Speaks in complete sentences; a couple pauses okay.

*Students must receive at least 10 points to move on

Possible Points: _____ / 15

Tutor Comments:

☐ **Congratulations! Keep going.**

You have successfully completed this SDLA and are ready to continue to the next.

☐ **Work on this more.**

You have not yet mastered this SDLA. It is recommended that you complete it again.

Tutor Signature: _____

Date: _____

