

Paper Presentation

6. Early Spring in February:

Teaching Chinese Language, Literature, and Society through Film

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There is no denial that textbooks are useful and necessary in language teaching. However, they do not possess the audiovisual and dramatic elements that films do. With its distinct Mandarin articulation by well-known actors, fine acting, and a simple but captivating story set in southern China in the Republic period, "Early Spring in February"(Zaochun eryue), a classic film based on a novella by the May Fourth writer Rou Shi, is ideal for teaching Chinese language, literature and society. The presentation will show how the study guide to the film can be effectively utilized in classroom teaching. The study guide contains 10 segments; each segment includes the dialogue, vocabularies, pinyin text, and ample exercise. It is suitable for students at the intermediate level and those who speak other dialects learning Mandarin.