Kieran Donaghy, author of the award winning website, Film English, is publishing a book called Film in Action, which takes us through the theory, activities and longer term projects involved in teaching through film.

I was very surprised when I got my first glimpse of the content Kieran has put into the book. He shared a preview of his material with me so that I could feature his book for you here. I must say that it’s the first of its kind in English language teaching. From narratives to voice-overs & images, you’d be forgiven for thinking you’re not reading a language teacher’s methodology book at all, but that you are, in fact, enrolled in a film maker’s course. Both despite and because of the enticing presentation, you’ll find creative methodologies expertly embedded into each theory, activity and longer-term project.

If you want to seduce your students into playing with language through multi-media learning environments & film, then this book will blast you into a whole new world of possibilities.

Light, camera, action.

It’s all about action, from watching actively to actively producing. It’s about getting your students to create their own movies clips after they’ve learnt to appreciate the finer aspects of multi-media literacy and the language it involves.

Last but not least, what has always struck me about Film English is the heart behind it, the choice of films Kieran uses to teach English, and the fact that these films share messages that go deeper than the language being learnt. That’s the power of film, story and the storyteller. In this case, Kieran Donaghy is the storyteller, transforming film into inspirational educational content and projects that can reach our students socially, emotionally and intellectually.

The real accomplishment is when our students become storytellers. Aren’t you tempted to take this to the next level?

SYLVIA GUINAN