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The Values in Motion Method

A Step-by-Step Playbook for Making Stop-Motion Films in Your Classroom

No prior filmmaking experience required.
For teachers of students aged 6–14.

Based on Erasmus+ Project 2024-2-IT02-KA210-SCH-000293779
(MEET ETS & IES Rodanas)

Why Stop-Motion is the Ultimate Classroom Tool

100% Accessible

Requires only existing school phones/tablets, free apps, paper, clay, and recycled materials. No expensive equipment needed.

Naturally Inclusive

Requires diverse skills—writing, drawing, modeling, photography, and music. Every student finds a role suited to their strengths.

Builds Real Competences

Develops reading, visual thinking, teamwork, digital skills, patience, and concentration simultaneously.

Meaningful Learning

Culminates in a public premiere. Students experience their schoolwork as something that matters beyond the classroom walls.

How Teachers Learn the Method

Step 4: Tutoring & Peer Sharing

Use shared folders and guidance from experienced tutors or partner colleagues to solve technical and narrative problems.

No prior experience needed!

Step 1: Online Masterclasses

4 sessions with global experts covering pre-production, collaborative animation, sound design, and inclusive storytelling.

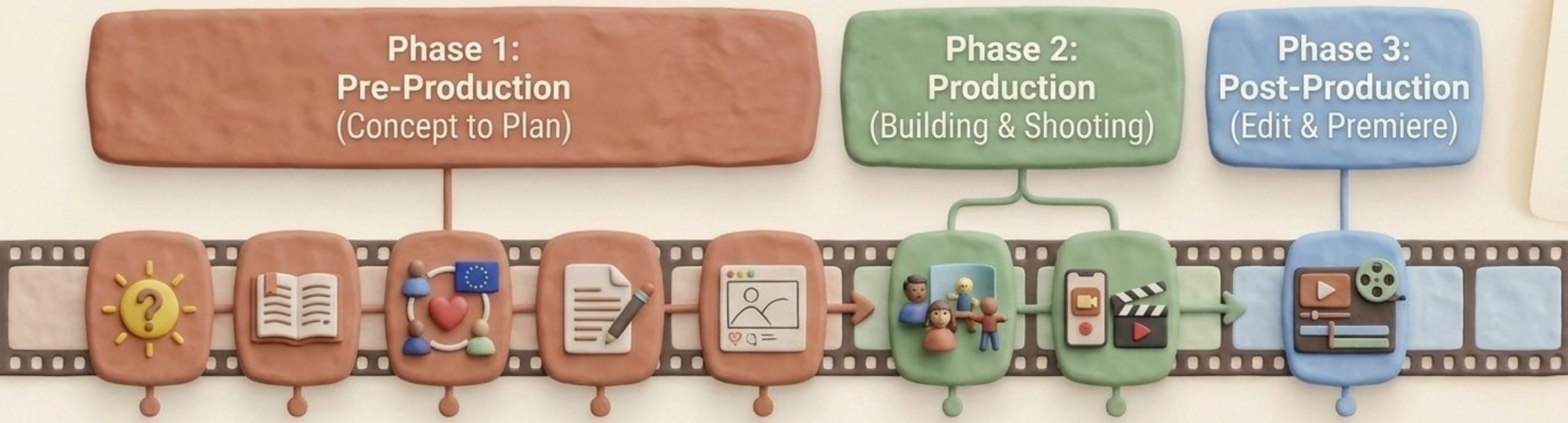
Step 3: Hands-on Practice

Try the Stop Motion Studio app, build simple characters, and experiment with the technique before your students do.

Step 2: Video Capsules

8 short, practical videos covering exact classroom execution steps (from scripting to editing with VN).

The 8-Step Classroom Production Pipeline



Step 0: Warm Up & Discover

Step 1: Deep Reading

Step 2: Connect to EU Values

Step 3: Scripting

Step 4: Storyboarding

Step 5: Sets & Characters

Step 6: Shoot & Record

Step 7: Edit, Subtitle & Screen

Igniting the Spark & Analyzing the Tale

Step 0 - The Warm Up

Discover Movement (1-2 Lessons). Let small groups animate random objects.

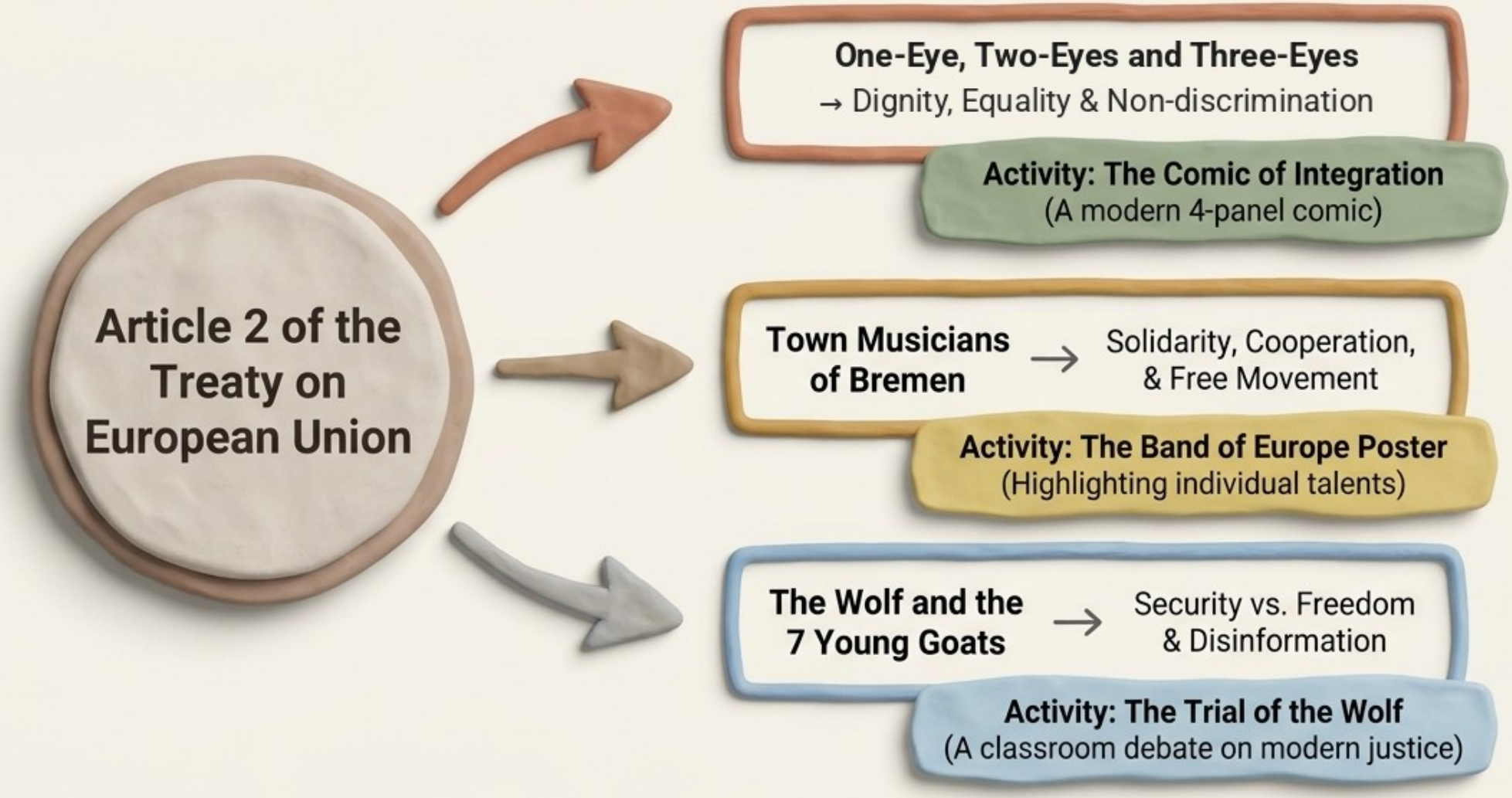
Goal: Remove fear of the camera and learn the core rule: **Movement is made of small changes.**

Step 1 - The 3-Level Reading Guide

Analyzing *The Town Musicians of Bremen*

Literal (What happens?)	The four animals leave their homes and travel to Bremen.
Inferential (Why does it happen?)	They are discarded by their owners for being old and useless.
Critical (What do we think?)	Would any of them have driven the robbers out alone? Would we act the same way today?

Transforming Classic Tales into Modern European Values



How to Write a Teaching Guide for Any Tale

The structure used by IES Rodanas, reusable with any tale, poem or text

1

Introduction & Context

A short summary of the story and its main themes.

2

Reading Comprehension

Questions that move from what happens, to why it happens, to what we think about it.

3

The Story & EU Values

Link events and characters to the values of the Treaty on European Union and to today's Europe.

4

Creative Activity

A poster, a comic, a text or a role play: the bridge to the storyboard.

Example

The Town Musicians of Bremen: reading questions on cooperation, then solidarity and dignity in today's Europe, then a poster for "The Band of Europe" with the slogan "United in diversity".

From Tale to Film: The IES Rodanas Example

How one class in Épila turned two classic tales into two short films

THE TALE

The Ugly Duckling

Hans Christian Andersen

THE VALUES

Equality, inclusion and respect for diversity

THE FILM

Different

Bobby wants to join a group, but the others will not let him in because he is different.

THE TALE

The Town Musicians of Bremen

Brothers Grimm

THE VALUES

Collaboration, cooperation and teamwork

THE FILM

Harmony

Four instruments cannot make a good sound until they learn to play together.

Phase 1
Discover stop motion

Phase 2
Read tales with teaching guides

Phase 3
Storyboard, sets and characters

Phase 4
Shoot, dub and add titles

Visualizing the Story: Script to Storyboard

Step 3: Write Together.

Choose one tale. Rule of thumb: 1 page of script = 1 minute of film (target 2–5 minutes).
Keep structure simple: Beginning, Turning Point, Ending.

Step 4: The Storyboard Process

Teacher Tool (AI Draft)

Use AI to quickly generate an illustrated storyboard to check pacing, plot, and production timeline.

Student Ownership (Hand-Drawn)

Students redraw panels by hand on printable templates. They add scene numbers, shot durations, and their own unique ideas.
The final plan is 100% theirs.

Choosing Your Animation Technique

Paper Cut-outs Quick, affordable, and ideal for younger pupils (Ages 6–8).

Clay/Plasticine Highly expressive, shape-shifting, classic aesthetic. Great for character transformation.

Everyday Objects Surprising and funny. Perfect for a fast, zero-prep first film.

Mixed Media Combining techniques for advanced classes and older students.

The Rule of Set Building: Give everyone a role. Divide the class into teams for drawing, cutting, modeling, painting, and set construction.

Executing the Shoot: The 3 Golden Rules

The Rules

1. **Rule 1: Absolute Stability.** Fix the phone or tablet completely. It cannot move during the scene.

2. **Rule 2: Constant Light.** Avoid changing daylight. Close classroom curtains and use artificial lamps.

3. **Rule 3: The Right App.** Use Stop Motion Studio. Set to 12 frames per second. Use the Onion Skin function to move characters smoothly.

Sound Design Checklist

- Record voices and sound effects separately, close to the source.
- Use classroom objects for Foley sound effects.
- If clean sound fails, use subtitles or music (like a silent film).

Post-Production & The Big Premiere

1. Edit

Use a free video editor (like VN) to cut clips, add transitions, adjust speed, and mix volume.

2. Enhance

Add royalty-free music (or student-composed tracks), title cards, and subtitles.

3. Screen

Host a premiere. Whether in the classroom, for families, or at festivals, seeing their work on a big screen is the students' strongest motivation for future learning.

The Inclusion Engine: A Role for Everyone

Inclusion Mapping Matrix

Student Traits	Recommended Crew Roles
Language learners / Visual thinkers	Art & Set Team (Drawing, cutting, visual design)
Quiet / Detail-oriented students	Animation & Camera Team (Lighting, moving characters, taking photos)
Collaborative / Expressive students	Sound & Music Team (Voice acting, sound effects, composing)
Writers / Conceptual thinkers	Story Team (Scripting, dialogue, directing)

Pedagogical Takeaway: Assign roles based on individual strengths, not academic marks. Small groups and clear tasks help marginalized students find their place.

Integrating AI as a Co-Pilot, Not a Replacement

How AI is Used

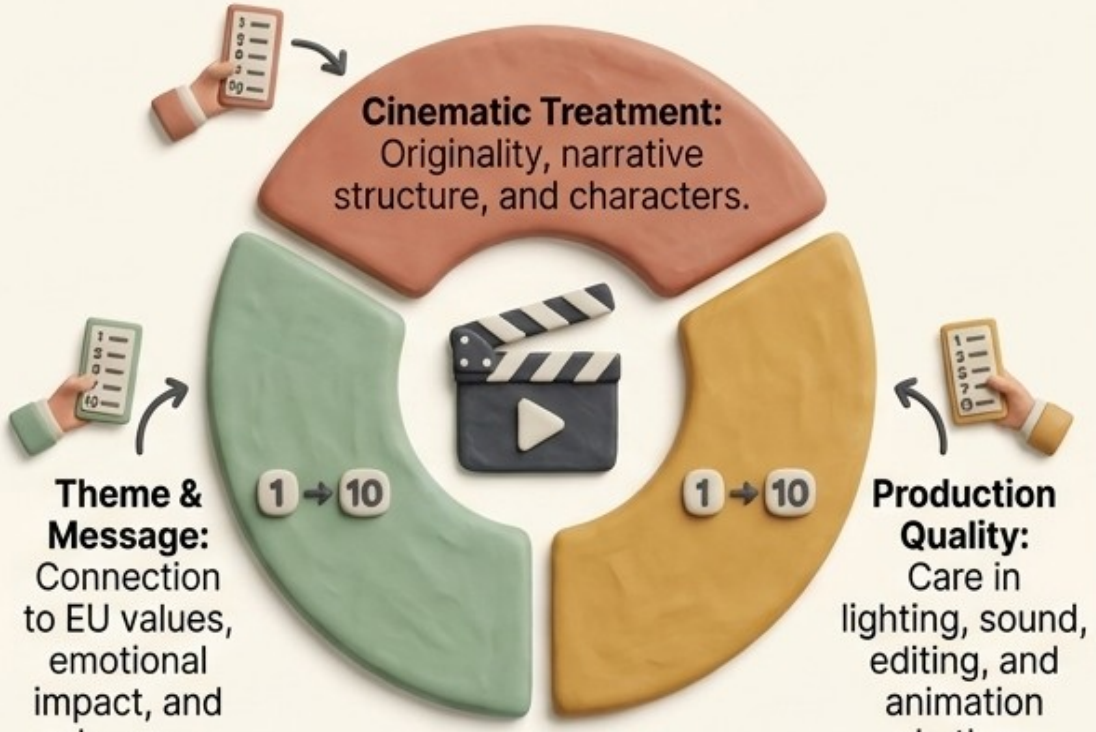
To generate initial storyboard visualizations for teacher planning, complete soundtracks (via Suno or Gemini), and help revise base texts.

The 3 Strict Rules

1. **Student Ownership:** The core ideas and story must always come from the students. They must redraw/rewrite AI drafts.
2. **Copyright Check:** Always verify the license and copyright of any AI-generated music or image.
3. **Transparency:** Discuss openly with the class: What did the tool do, and what did we do?

Evaluating the Process and the Output

Teacher Evaluation (Scored 1-10)



The Young Jury Kit

Turns the entire class into a film jury with a voting form and automatic score sheet.

Develops media literacy, critical thinking, and respectful debate during screenings.

Note: A technically imperfect film can still be a success if group cohesion was achieved.

A Blueprint for Your Semester (The 12-Week Master Plan)

Everything You Need is Free and Open Source

Available at valuesinmotion.eu:

- 4 Expert Masterclasses & 8 Video Capsules.
- Stop Motion Studio Beginner’s Playbook.
- Teaching Guides, Printable Storyboard Templates, and Evaluation Jury Kits.
- 10 real student films (e.g., Different, Harmony, Promemoria) with backstage footage for inspiration.

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Values in Motion

Stop Motion for a Moving Education

A project by MEET ETS (Italy) and IES Rodanas (Spain),
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