**GRAN TORINO**

1. **SCENES 1 + 2 : expression orale, présentation du personnage principal du film assez caricatural, un américain vieillissant acariâtre attaché aux valeurs de son pays qui refuse toute ouverture d’esprit et évolution des mœurs** (attitude envers ses petits enfants et envers ses nouveaux voisins asiatiques, Hmong).

**Objectifs linguistiques : 1. Lexique :** les relations familiales, les sentiments d’incompréhension, de mépris et de fierté, la mort, la religion, les qualités et les défauts, « foreigners≠strangers » … **2. Grammaire :** préférence, modaux (quasi-certitude et supposition), rejet…

**→** **Concentrate on the main character:** his name; his nationality; his probable age; his social status; his family; his nature/character; his past.

Walt KOWALSKI is American. He must be patriotic/a patriot as the Star Spangled Banner/the Stars and Stripes is in his front garden. He is proud of being American.

He is retired [a retired assembly plant worker]. (a plant = a factory)

He no more works. [He worked for Ford.]

He must be/is certainly in his seventies.

He is a widower. His wife is dead / she has just died and been buried. The first scene is her funeral. The family has just attended her funeral/burial.

Walt is bad-tempered and narrow-minded. He does not get on well/get along with his two sons and their wives/his daughters-in-law and his grand-children (3 grandsons and 1 granddaughter). So, they rarely/scarcely meet. He is not sociable/friendly/tolerant/understanding… He prefers living alone to staying with his sons.

He is racist too. He can’t stand Asian people/foreigners. He is prejudiced against them.

In 1952, he fought in Korea. He is a Korean vet. Maybe, he can’t stand/hates his Asian neighbours because of the war. He may have lost many of his friends during the war. He may have seen many dead soldiers/corpses there. He must hold a grudge against them.

He is quite rude/uncouth/vulgar. He spits all the time and uses slang.

He is an irreligious man /disrespectful towards religion. He does not believe in God. He shows lack of religious beliefs.

**→** **Homework:**

**Web search:** **Gran Torino**: what does it refer to?

Where does the scene take place? (Probable US city)

**PPC:** Get ready to talk about Walt Kowalski for 2/3 minutes.

1. **WALT’S BIRTHDAY / SCENES 11 + 12 : compréhension orale à partir de 2 scènes, le jour de l’anniversaire de Walt, sa famille lui annonce qu’il est temps pour lui de quitter sa maison pour s’installer dans une maison spéciale pour personnes âgées, il les met dehors. Il est ensuite invité chez ses voisins Hmong où toute la famille est réunie autour du patriarche. « The family shaman », respecté de tous, lui propose de lire ses pensées.**

**2 cultures et 2 conceptions de la vieillesse et de la famille. Découverte et respect d’une culture différente puis rupture, dénonciations de ses valeurs.**

**Objectifs:** quelques mots de liaison + want to/want him to/convince him to… **Etude rapide.**

**→ Who and when? What for?** (their real goal/purpose) **Walt’s reaction?**

The scene takes place at home with his son and his daughter-in-law Karen.

They have got two presents. “Gophers”: a pair of pliers [It must be a brand name] and a phone with big buttons. They are supposed to make things easier/to help him reach stuff or people.

It is ridiculous/preposterous.

They have thought about “a sort of community”, “a kind of hotel”, “a great place”. In fact, it is an old people’s home. They have some brochures.

Actually, *they do their best/utmost to convince him to move/ to talk him into/out of…*

Although/ even if he is alert and active, *they want him to..*

That’s why *he kicks them out/gets rid of them*.

1. **SCENE 12 compréhension orale à partir de “guide-lines” [a+b+c]**

**At the neighbours’: a barbecue party/Sue’s special guest**

1. **Hmong people are very traditional people.**

**Their traditions/customs/habits:**

You never touch Hmong people on their head not even a child.

They believe their soul is on their head [so you may damage it].

You never look at somebody in their eyes/stare at people; it is rude.

When(ever) you yell/scream/ shout at somebody/when(ever) they feel ill-at-ease/ insecure/uncomfortable, they smile or grin.

1. **The old man:**

A kind of witch doctor/ a sort of psychic/ the family shaman wants to read Walt.

**→ His words:**

“People don’t respect you. They don’t even look at you. Your food has no flavour. You made a mistake in your past that you can’t forget. You are not at peace.”

**→What does he mean?**

Walt’s way of life can be criticized/disapproved of. He lives alone/part/on the fringe of the society. He must be a bit selfish and mean/spiteful. His life is boring/dull. He has no fun.

He cannot forgive himself for his mistake. He feels sorry about his past. He feels guilty and bitter/ uncomfortable/embarrassed. [He wishes/if only he…]

1. **Anything new about Kowalski?**

He must be ill/ unhealthy/ in bad health. *+/- utile*

It seems to be of ill-omen. Something wrong is certainly going to happen to him. He may die soon.

**YOUR TASK**

**What is your immediate reaction? Discuss** (in couple) for 2 min, **get ready to give your personal opinion.**

My first reaction is the same as … / different from … In my opinion, …

Walt finally realizes that he has more in common with these strangers and/or foreigners than with his own family. Although/even if they are strangers, he feels closer to these “fish heads” than to his “spoilt rotten family”. They understand him better. He prefers …

Among them, he feels at home. He can mingle/get integrated. He no more criticizes them, laughs at them, hates them, and despises them.

**→ Homework:**

**Get ready to talk about the Hmong community and their shaman.**

**Séance suivante: les élèves doivent être prêts à prendre la parole en continu ou en interaction pour une micro-tâche.**

**→ Choose one of the following TASKS.**

- You are one of Walt Kowalski’s neighbours; you meet Sue, the young girl from the Hmong community, and tell her about him. As you have known him for a long time, you judge him very severely. Imagine what you can say to her and what she can answer.

- You belong to the Hmong community, you have met Walt Kowalski for the first time at the party and you have understood how sad and guilty he feels. Imagine what you can say about him to someone from the neighbourhood. Express your opinion and your feelings.