

BIG KIDS SHORTS

GUIDE #REGARD27



regard
SCOLAIRE

This guide is designed to prepare students for their cultural field trip and to facilitate class discussion afterwards.

For each short film, this workbook contains:

- Basic information including the film's title, country of origin, duration, year, type and the name(s) of the filmmaker(s) ;
- The film's synopsis and main themes ;
- A simple comprehension question that can guide students in their viewing ;
- A space for students to rate the film on a five-star scale ;
- Ideas for activities or discussions in order to prepare and deepen contextual and cinematic knowledge related to the film.

At the end of the guide there are complementary activities to be done after watching the films. Please feel free to send us photos of your students in action!



If you would like to see the films again in class, they will be available online **from March 27 until the end of the school year**. Teachers, watch your inbox for access info!

It's ideal for:

- Allowing students who were absent to see the films
- Including one or more films in the evaluation of a skill
- Rewatching the class's favourite films
- And more!



VOTE AS A CLASS FOR THE BEST FILM!

After the activity, we suggest you have a discussion in class to determine which of the short films that you saw was the best one, according to your students. Then, vote for that film by completing this [short form](#). The film that receives the most votes will win the audience award for the Youth Competition. One of the voting classes will receive a great prize: a recycled-fabric snack bag for each student, made by the Minuit moins cinq regional cooperative. To keep the competition fair, we only accept one vote per class.





PREPARING FOR A TRIP TO REGARD

DURING THE SCHOOL TRIP, DON'T FORGET TO...

- Greet the members of the REGARD team, including volunteers, when you meet them ;
- Stay seated throughout the screening ;
- Go to the washroom BEFORE the activity starts ;
- Open your eyes, ears and heart to fully experience the films ;
- Save your comments and reactions for the credits.

It is normal to feel all kinds of emotions during the screening, because cinema is art! Some films will make you feel a stronger response than others. You might even want to share your reaction with your friends sitting nearby. However, since the films are very short, please stay silent except during the credits so as not to disturb others.

THE ART OF READING SUBTITLES

As you know, this program is 100% in English. To help you understand everything, we've arranged for English subtitles to be included. It isn't always easy to absorb all the visual information on-screen when you're reading the dialogue. Here are some tips for making the most of the screening:

- As in any somewhat stressful situation, it's best to breathe through your nose. It isn't a big deal if you don't understand every word.
- The subtitles are there to help with comprehension. Let the images and characters' body language guide you. If needed, you can choose to scan only a few key words from the subtitles.
- A film is a work of art, which means you aren't required to understand precisely what the filmmaker is trying to say. You're completely free to appreciate the film in your own way.

FILMS DETAILS



GENERATION IMPACT: THE CODER



Director: Samantha Knowles
Country: United States
Year: 2021
Type: Documentary
Duration: 6 m 45 s
Themes: Family, communication, programming, equality of opportunity

Synopsis: Jay Jay Patton was only 13 when she designed and built Photo Patch, a mobile app to help kids send photos and letters to parents who are incarcerated. The app was inspired by Jay Jay’s own experience; her dad was in prison for five years and it was difficult to communicate with him as much as she wanted.



What is Jay Jay’s role in the academy she founded with her father?

Rating

Post-screening discussion: A profession is considered “traditionally male” if fewer than 33% of the people working in it are women. That doesn’t mean that men are better at it! Information technology and mechanics are two examples of fields in which there are far more men than women, even in 2023. Unfortunately, the stereotypes around these fields may discourage some people from taking an interest in them, and create the impression that it will be hard to succeed. Fortunately, there are heroes and heroines like Jay Jay, who are helping change attitudes and setting a good example by proving that every passion is for everyone!

Post-screening activity: Imagine an app that you would like to create. What would it be called? Would it be free? Why? Design a logo for your app.

Bonus: The film is also available [online](#) for free! Discover the programming school founded by Jay Jay and her father [here](#)!

WATCH THE TRAILER

PAPERI



Director: Katariina Haukka

Country: Finland

Year: 2022

Type: Animation

Duration: 4 m 47 s

Themes : Creativity, inspiration

Synopsis: The artist Marja hunts down a sheet of paper that's trying to escape from her. In the process, she manages to turn her room upside down. A spectacle dripping with wonderful colours!



What artistic technique does Marja use when she reconciles with the piece of paper?

Rating



Pre-screening discussion: Are you familiar with blank page syndrome? It's what happens when we can't get started on a piece of writing or a project, out of fear of failure. It's as if suddenly, no ideas will come to you. That's what happens to Marja at the start of the film. If you've experienced it, here are some tricks to help you break out of it:

- Listen to music that inspires you
- Try a different artistic technique
- Focus on the pleasure of creating rather than the desired result

Cinematic concept: The technique used in this film is called stop-motion animation. In this process, photos of objects are taken, and the objects are moved slightly between each photo. The result is the illusion of movement. Normally, 24 different images are captured for each second of running time in order to make the illusion work! Finnish artist Katariina Haukka made all the dolls and props needed for this film using fabric, wood and a 3D printer.

Bonus: Katariina documented the creation of Paperi, which is her final project for film school, on [this Instagram account](#).

IF



WATCH THE TRAILER

Director : Didier Charette

Province: Québec

Year: 2022

Type: Fiction

Duration: 12 m 45 s

Themes: Adventure, imagination, friendship

Synopsis: When Ryan and his imaginary friend Jo embark on their ultimate adventure together, Ryan is forced to confront his ultimate fear.



In the film, what is the name of the universe's most remote planet?

Rating



Pre-screening activity: This film's main character is Ryan, and Jo is a secondary character. In the photo, you can see part of Jo's head behind Ryan. Try to draw a complete picture of Jo using these instructions:

- Jo is a large character with an oval head
- He is covered with short orange fur
- His right ear is pointy and his left ear is round
- He has two round eyes
- He has a big red mouth with 13 pointy teeth
- He has no neck
- He has four fingers on his right hand and five fingers on his left hand
- He has a tail shaped like a lightning bolt
- On his left side, he has a small corkscrew-shaped wing
- He is wearing a green t-shirt, blue shorts and a banana-shaped fanny pack.

Post-screening activity: In the film, Jo gives Ryan badges when Ryan completes feats or demonstrates exceptional qualities. Be like him! Draw a badge for one of your friends in class representing one of their major strengths.



DIPSAS SPEAKS



Director: Craig Leon

Country: Ecuador

Year: 2022

Type: Documentary

Duration: 5 m 53 s

Themes: The environment, deforestation, biodiversity

Synopsis: *Dipsas Speaks* is a poetic reflection on the human-wildlife conflict in the Andean Amazon cloud forest in Ecuador. An inoffensive snake observes changes in her world.



What is a *Dipsas klebbai*?

Rating

Post-screening discussion: The voice heard in the first part of the film is called the *narrator*. In *Dipsas Speaks*, the narrator is a snake. Why do you think the director chose to make a snake speak rather than a human or a different animal?

Post-screening activity: Make a poster on an environmental theme for your school's walls. Try to make your classmates more aware of the importance of adopting environmentally friendly habits. For example: eating local produce, wearing second-hand clothes, using public transit, walking, cycling, etc.



WATCH THE TRAILER



SPRING ROLL DREAM



Director: Mai Vu
Country: United Kingdom
Year: 2022
Type: Animation
Duration: 9 m 19 s
Themes: Family, culture, food

Synopsis: Linh is a Vietnamese single mother who's successfully forged a life for herself and her son in America. But one day, her father visits from Vietnam and insists on cooking the family a traditional Vietnamese meal...



What sauce does the young son put on the spring roll?

Rating

Post-screening activity: What are your family's culinary traditions? Do you like dishes from other cultures? Make a cookbook with the specialties you eat at home!

Post-screening discussion: What is culture shock? It's a sense of disorientation felt by a person experiencing an unfamiliar social setting or way of life. This is common during foreign trips. Have you or someone you know ever experienced confusion, joy, trouble adapting or other emotions when facing a new reality?



WATCH THE TRAILER

CANARY



Directors: Pierre-Hugues Dallaire et Benoit Therriault

Country: Québec

Year: 2022

Type: Animation

Duration: 12 m 05 s

Themes: Friendship, lies and freedom

Synopsis: A young boy named Sonny works in an underground coal mine with the adults, taking care of the canary that detects deadly methane gas.



Why don't the workers react more strongly when the canary dies?



WATCH THE TRAILER

Rating



Pre-screening discussion: A sentinel species is one (often an animal) whose sensitivity we use to detect changes in an environment. The idea of putting an animal in a potentially dangerous place originated in 1895 with scientist John Scott Haldane. At the time, people started using canaries in coal mines in order to detect carbon monoxide or methane, two gases that are toxic to humans and animals. Because birds are more sensitive than us, they get sick before we do, allowing the workers to protect themselves and leave the mine if necessary. In this way, canaries have helped save many lives.

Post-screening discussion: Some people form very strong bonds with their pets, as we saw in the film. Sometimes, pets are even considered family members! Did you know that there are many benefits from caring for a pet? They help us communicate better, help us develop good antibodies, teach us to be responsible and keep us healthy! Do you have any pets? How do you feel about them?



ROCKET FUEL



Director: Jessie Posthumus
Country: Ontario, Canada
Year: 2022
Type: Fiction
Duration: 11 m 29 s
Themes: Childhood, summer, resourcefulness

Synopsis: Three young siblings collect cans and bottles in an old wagon nicknamed “The Rocket” with plans to cash in their empties for ice cream.



How do the children finally succeed in buying some ice cream?

Rating

Cinematic concept: Often, a film includes several elements intended as clues to help us understand the story, even if none of the characters mentions them. The sets and props can explain a lot of things about where the action takes place, even if the name of the place is never mentioned. Costumes can inform us about a character’s personality, whether they are rich or poor, etc. The way the actors perform their parts can also provide clues about things that happened before the start of the film, thanks to their reactions and emotions. When we successfully guess elements that are not mentioned or shown directly, that is called “reading between the lines.”

Post-screening activity: While the children in the film are all members of the same family, they are very different from each other. List three physical and three psychological characteristics for each of the main characters.



WATCH THE TRAILER

BOOM



Director: Gabriel Augerai

Country: France

Year: 2022

Type: Animation

Duration: 5 m 36 s

Themes: Natural disasters, survival, offspring

Synopsis: A couple of dumb birds tries its best to protect its eggs from a volcano eruption.



How do the eggs ultimately survive the natural disaster?

Rating



Discussion préparatoire: Qu'est-ce qu'une éruption volcanique? Une éruption volcanique se produit lorsque de la lave et des gaz sont libérés par un volcan. Ici, les dodos tentent de fuir une catastrophe explosive !

Post-screening discussion: Several comedic techniques are used in this short film. They include repetitions, falls, noises and cries, absurd actions, etc. Can you link some to specific scenes in the film?

Bonus: Video about [volcanic eruptions!](#)

ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES



INTERPRETING AN EMOTION

The emotion an actor or actress expresses when delivering their lines can completely change the meaning of the words! In class, we suggest an initiation to acting by playing this little game:

- 1. Print the following lines from the films in the program
- 2. Cut them out so that there is one line per piece of paper and place them in a bowl
- 3. On other pieces of paper, write down several emotions (sadness, anger, jealousy, happiness, etc.) and put them in a second bowl
- 4. Take turns picking a line and an emotion from the bowls, then read the line while trying to express the emotion you drew from the bowl

“Spaghetti’s ready Jo! Come on!”	“I don’t want to go home.”
“I can’t believe we made it to the furthest planet in the universe!”	“Well, I found something. That’s what took me so long.”
“Copy. Mission accomplished. I’m coming down. Over and out.”	“Hurry up, and make sure we can’t see you from the road.”
“Mom, I’m hungry. Can we get a burger?”	“I love you Daddy, you’re the best.”
“I want to make one too!”	“I mean, if you’re ready and willing to do it, just get into it.”
“Wait! Something’s missing!”	

JUMBLE



Arrange the letters in the right order to find out the different film genres.

1- Film that makes people laugh:

c-d-e-m-o-y

2- Film that deals with a somber or serious situation:

a-a-d-m-r

3- Film that provokes fear:

h-o-o-r-r-r

4- Film that focuses on a love story:

a-c-e-m-n-o-r

5- Film in which characters live spectacular adventures, often including fights:

a-c-i-n-o-t

6- Film in which there are magical or supernatural elements:

a-a-f-n-s-t-y

7- Film that takes place in space or in the future:

c-c-c-e-e-f-i-i-i-n-n-o-s-t

GEOLOCATION



On the world map, locate the province, state or country highlighted by some of the films in the program.



Dipsas Speaks
Ecuador



Spring Roll Dream
- Vietnam



Generation Impact:
The coder - United States



Rocket Fuel -
Ontario, Canada

RIDDLE

Choose a film from the program and have a classmate guess the title. You can only answer yes or no, and your classmate can only ask five questions. Kudos if you use cinematographic language!

Here are some questions that may help:

- Type of film? (fiction, documentary, animation)
- Film genre? (drama, comedy, romantic, etc.)
- Main character types? (animals, humans, fantasy characters)
- Duration of the film? (very short, medium short, rather long)

