

Bolt

Study Notes



Directed by: Byron Howard & Chris Williams

Certificate: PG

Running time: 96 mins

Synopsis

The canine star of a fictional sci-fi /action show that believes his powers are real embarks on a cross-country trek to save his co-star from a threat he believes is just as real.

Before seeing the film

Key questions

1. Bolt is an action hero – a super dog. He has super strength; he is super fast and he has a supersonic bark. If you have or would like to have a pet, which super powers would it have? What would his or her super hero name be?
2. Bolt has a marking on his back that looks like a lightning bolt. What unique marking or symbol would your super pet have?
3. Bolt is incredibly loyal – like all dogs. What does loyalty mean to you? To whom are you loyal and who is loyal to you?
4. Bolt is the hero of an action/adventure television programme. What other famous dogs do you know? What do they have in common?
5. Bolt finds it hard to believe that his character in the TV programme is not real. How do you know that the programmes that you see on television are not real?

After seeing the film

Task 1

The animators and artists who worked on Bolt had to study animal movement for a long time before they actually started to create the characters. They needed to examine how dogs, cats and hamsters (!) move in detail so that the characters on screen look realistic.

Activity

Become an animal animator...choose an animal that you would like to animate. Find footage of your animal moving and draw diagrams of it in different stages of movement. If you can, create a plasticine model of your animal and make diagrams of it moulded in different positions.

Task 2

At one point, Bolt's cat friend (Mittens) says that sticking your head out of the window of a moving car is 'a dog thing'. What other of Bolt's characteristics are 'dog things'. Make a list.