

Son of Rambow



Suitable for:

KS3, GCSE, AS A2 Media/Film Studies

Film details:

Cert. 12A, Running time 96 mins

Son of Rambow follows two boys in 1980s England. Will, who isn't allowed to watch TV or go to the cinema, expresses himself through his drawings until he finds himself caught up in the extraordinary world of Lee Carter and his love of creating bizarre home movies.

Friends and Family

The relationship between Lee Carter and Will starts off under difficult circumstances. Think about these two main characters and how you might describe them, starting with your first impressions of each character:

Lee	Will

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film education

- As the boys' unlikely friendship develops, we learn about the home life of each of the characters. With this understanding do our initial impressions of the characters change?
- What different concepts of family are represented in the film?

'What, you want to be the son of Rambo?'

The friendship between Lee and Will is the central force in the narrative.

- How does this friendship impact on relationships between other friends and family members?
- In both cases, the boys have an absent parent. How does this influence their behaviour?

During the filmmaking Will begins an action sequence recognisably based on the 1980s icon Rambo. In character he declares the purpose of his mission, and who he is; Lee, in some surprise replies, 'What, you want to be the son of Rambo?'

What does this moment in the film tell us about Will? What does the filmmaking offer him?

The Price of Fame

As the film progresses, the boys become increasingly associated with filmmaking and this association becomes known throughout the school.

How do changes in the boys' popularity with other students impact on their friendship with each other?

Fantasy and Narrative

There are several sequences in the film when we are able to see Will's internal world. Think about how this is done.

- Why do you think this style was chosen?
- What connotations does it have? Does this change over the course of the film? What do you think motivates Will to have these dreams?
- As the boys become friends, Will's book becomes a central part of the film they make. How would you describe Will's approach to the filmmaking?