

'Up' Study Notes



Directed by: Pete Docter

Certificate: U

Running time: 96 mins

Synopsis

By tying thousands of balloons to his home, 78-year-old Carl Fredrickson sets out to fulfill his lifelong dream to see the wilds of South America. Right after lifting off, however, he learns he isn't alone on his journey, since Russell, a wilderness explorer 70 years his junior, has inadvertently become a stowaway on the trip.

Before seeing the film

Key questions

1. The director of 'Up' (Pete Docter) also made 'Monsters Inc.'. He is one of Pixar's four directors. Knowing this, what are you expecting 'Up' to be about? What type of film do you think it will be? Do you think you will like it? Why?
2. Look at the film image above. What does the image tell you about the film? What types of colours are used? Are there any characters to see? What do you think the film will be about from what you can see in the poster?
3. The film is described as an 'animation; an action; an adventure; a comedy and a family film'. Who do you think would like to see the film at the cinema? Boys or girls? Mums and dads? Children? Teenagers? 78-year-olds? Why?
4. The film is about a friendship that develops between a boy and an old man. Think of an elderly person that you know. Perhaps a Granny or Grandpa, or an elderly person who lives close to you. Write a story about your friendship with that person. Interview them to find out what makes them tick. Include their words in your story.
5. Design a poster for the film as if it were called 'Down' or 'In' instead of 'Up'.

After seeing the film

1. Prepare a one-minute talk on your favourite scene from the film. Describe what happened before, during and after. Describe the main characters and why it was your favourite scene.
 2. Create a piece of art that uses balloons as its main theme.
 3. When the film was being made, the director (Pete Docter) looked up Disney veteran animators Frank Thomas, Ollie Johnston and Joe Grant for inspiration. Find out who these animators were and what their animation was like. Do you think 'Up' looks similar to their work? How is it different to other animated films?
 4. Did the film live up to your expectations? Write a review of the film that includes a:
 - short description of the story (don't give the ending away!)
 - short description of the main characters
 - what you think could have been better about the film
 - what you liked about the film
 - anything that stood out to you (like the 'extra' characters – Dug the Dog for example)
- Read through your review, and then email it to postbox@filmeducation.org – you could win the Junior Film Critic competition! www.youngfilmcritic.org
5. The main character, Carl Fredrickson has always dreamt of going to the wilds of South America. Where have you always wanted to go? Draw plans of how you could escape school to get to where you want to be.

Disney's A Christmas Carol Trailer



Directed by: Robert Zemeckis

Certificate: tbc

Running time: tbc

Release date: 6 November 2009

Synopsis

An animated retelling of Charles Dickens classic novel about a Victorian-era miser taken on a journey of self-redemption, courtesy of several mysterious Christmas apparitions.

Questions

1. What do you know about Charles Dickens and 'A Christmas Carol'? Find out when it was written and about other versions of the story.
2. Jim Carrey stars as Ebenezer Scrooge; the Ghost of Christmas Past; the Ghost of Christmas Present and the Ghost of Christmas Yet to Come. How do you think he managed to 'get into character' for each role?
3. The director, Robert Zemeckis, also directed Polar Express and Monster House. What do you think he'll bring to this Dickens classic?
4. The story of 'A Christmas Carol' has been retold again and again. Why do you think it is still relevant to us today?