

The Apple and the Worm



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Directed by: Anders Morgenthaler, Mads Juul

Certificate: U (contains no material likely to offend or harm)

Running time: 75 mins

Release date: 30th October 2009

Synopsis:

The Apple and the Worm the story of a self-absorbed red apple named Torben who, like most other apples on his tree, dreams of becoming a handsome, brightly polished show apple. Naturally, he's scared of everything that might sour life for an apple. When a friend of his is diagnosed with mites, Torben leads the charge to shake him out of the tree.

But Torben gets a taste of his own medicine when he discovers that he has a worm – a fast-talking, stubborn worm to boot. Soon, Torben, too, is rudely shaken out of his old life. Accompanied by the worm and another buddy, a pear-shaped apple who drops to the ground in a show of solidarity, Torben sets out through a vast, unknown, potentially hostile world to find a worm doctor. Along the way, the oddball trio meets a singing cherry, bigoted potatoes and cultivated vegetables, and Torben learns a thing or two about himself, which ultimately makes him a better apple.

Genre:

The Apple and the Worm is a fun Danish 2D animated film for young children with an underlying theme of society's obsession with perfection.

Suitable for:

These study notes address aspects of Literacy, PSHE and Science for pupils between ages 5–11.

BEFORE SEEING THE FILM

- The Apple and the Worm is a Danish film. What do you know about Denmark? Find out where it is. How does it compare to the UK?
- The director of the film said that he got the idea for it when he thought of a story about a talking apple that discovered that he had a worm inside him. He wanted to explore the idea of what the apple would say to the worm. Create a cartoon strip showing what you think might happen the moment when the apple discovers the worm. What would his first words be?
- Torben spends a lot of time dreaming of a time when he'll be bigger, shinier and more perfect. Do you think he's happy living this way? If he asked your advice about how to be happy, what would you say? Send him a postcard with some 'happiness' advice on it.

AFTER SEEING THE FILM

- Being shaken out of the tree is one of the worst things that can happen to an apple. Think about how this was shown in the film. Draw a storyboard showing five shots of the apple falling from the tree, using the storyboard sheet at the end of this guide. Use dramatic camera angles to make your point.
- During the course of the film, Torben, his worm and a few friends embark on a journey. Draw the map of the journey that they make.
- Watching a story like The Apple and the Worm unfold on the big screen is a journey in itself – full of highs and lows, twists and turns. Draw a 'story graph' showing the exciting bits, the scary bits and the funny bits in a graph format – with time as the label on one axis and 'events' on the other.

SHOT-PAIR-SHARE Activity 1

We are going to decode an image from the film to find hidden clues about the story.

NB Teachers: pupils will need a copy of the film's poster in A4 or A3 size, plus some sticky notes.

Shot

With a partner, explore this film poster for clues about the film. Explore the image, and then talk about it with your partner for 5 minutes.

Success criteria:

MUST: describe the image in terms of what you can see

SHOULD: describe the image in terms of the character and what they are doing in the image

COULD: describe the image in terms of camera angle; lighting; use of colour (if possible) and mise en scene (all that you can see in the frame – where the character is positioned in the frame, their body language, any props, the setting etc.)



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SHOT-PAIR-SHARE Activity 2

Pair

Using sticky notes, annotate the film picture with answers to these 'Where, What and Why?' questions:

- Where is the camera placed to take this picture?

- Why is the camera taking the picture from there and not from a different position?

- What can you see in the picture? What is going on outside the frame?

- How do these two characters feel about each other?

- Where is the light source for the image? What is the effect of having the shot lit in this way? What if it were cloudy in the background? How would the setting and feel be different?

SHOT-PAIR-SHARE Activity 3

Share

Re-draw the image from the worm's point of view. Apart from the camera angle, will you change the lighting, props and the colours? Share your drawing and explain your choices.

Success criteria:

MUST: you must include details of colours and props and why you chose them

SHOULD: you should be able to explain the choices that you made when designing your shot from a different point of view

COULD: you should include details of how the mise en scène has changed when the shot is from a different character's point of view.

NB Teacher: showcase the work of those who have come up with an original character who will appeal to boys that includes an awareness of the audience's needs.

Written by Julie Green

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Storyboard template

Shot	Dialogue/Description