

Jasper: Penguin Explorer



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Directed by: Eckart Fingberg

Certificate: U

Running time: 81 mins

Release date: 22 July 2010

Synopsis:

Unlike the rest of his companions at the South Pole, Jasper the penguin believes there is a greater world beyond the edge of the ice. He is proved right when he finds himself aboard an ocean liner in the company of the rarest of birds, the Kakapo, whose main trait is that when frightened she wells up like a balloon. Along with Emma, the captain's daughter, Jasper becomes embroiled in a rescue mission to save the Kakapo's eggs from the menacing Dr Block and his sidekick Rolf.

Genre:

Jasper the Penguin is the star of a TV animation series from Germany. In this film, Jasper embarks on a journey across the seas – full of action and adventure, quirky characters and fun. Children who watch this film will discover the physical world along with Jasper as he ventures away from the South Pole.

Suitable for:

The activities in these Study Notes address aspects of the curriculum for Geography, Literacy, Art and PSHE for pupils aged 5-11.

BEFORE SEEING THE FILM

- In this film, Jasper is a penguin that becomes a hero when he embarks on a world cruise with his little brother, Junior. If you were going to write a series of stories about a heroic animal, which one would you choose and why?
- Unlike his fellow penguins at the South Pole, Jasper does not believe that the world is flat. When he meets Emma, daughter of a captain who is sailing a cruiser around the world, he finds out that he is right. Think up a five-minute lesson that Jasper could deliver to his penguin friends and family that explains why the sun rises and sets everyday (HINT: it's not because the sun is hatched from a giant egg every day!).
- Jasper is an animated character from TV and film, popular in Germany. Carry out a survey in your class to find out the most popular films. How many of them are animated? Why do you think animation is so popular with children of your age?

AFTER SEEING THE FILM

- Jasper asks his dad to explain what lies 'beyond the edge' of the ice where they live. Could you explain what lies beyond your hometown? Create a travel brochure that would entice explorer Jasper to your local area.
- The tropical Kakapo bird that befriends Jasper has never experienced a cold country before and he isn't too pleased about being stranded at the South Pole. Jasper doesn't know any different – he's always lived in ice and snow. How would you explain what a warm and sunny day is like to someone like Jasper? Use adjectives and your five senses to describe what it's like to be 'warm' to Jasper. Create at least five separate sentences.
- Emma and Jasper become firm friends by the time their adventure is over. They vow to stay in touch via messages in bottles. If you could send a message in a bottle to either Emma or Jasper, what would you say?

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 this image in A4 or A3 size, plus some sticky notes.

Shot

With a partner, explore this film still for clues about the story.

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?
- What can you see in the picture? What is going on outside the frame?
- Why is the camera taking the picture from there and not from a different position?
- Which characters can you see? How do they feel towards each other? How can you tell?
- How is the shot lit? Are there any shadows? How does the lighting of the shot effect how we read the information?
- Write the dialogue between the characters in this shot. What are they planning? What are they saying to each other?

SHOT-PAIR-SHARE Activity 3

Share

Bring the shot to life: turn your dialogue into a film script, allocate parts and act it out. Compare your performance to the others in your class. How were their film scripts different? What elements were the same? This shows you how a single image can be interpreted in so many different ways.

Written by Julie Green
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