

Mars Needs Mums **Study Notes**



©E1 Entertainment

Directed by: Simon Wells
Certificate: PG (contains mild sci-fi violence and threat)
Running time: 85 mins
Release date: 8 April 2011

Synopsis:

When Martians kidnap Milo's mom, he finds out just how much he needs her and goes on a wild adventure that involves stowing away on a spaceship, discovering the planet Mars and taking on the alien nation and their leader. With the help of a tech-savvy, underground earthman named Gribble and a rebel Martian girl called Ki, Milo just might find his mom.

These Study Notes are suitable for KS2 Science, Literacy, Art, PSHE and Numeracy.

Before watching the film

1. What do you know about the planet Mars? Use books and the internet to research the planet. Find the answers to the following questions:
 - What is the origin of the name 'Mars'?
 - How close is it to the sun?
 - How big is Mars compared to other planets?
 - Does it have any moons?
 - What do we know about the surface of Mars and how have we found it out?
 - Have we found any living things on Mars?
2. What genre of film is *Mars Needs Moms*? What other films or books from that genre do you know? The film is directed by Simon Wells. His great grandfather was H G Wells. Try to find out who H G Wells was and why he may have inspired his great grandson Simon to make the film.
3. Imagine meeting a Martian! Draw a picture of what you think they might look like and what it is like on Mars. What questions would you ask the alien if you could?

After watching the film

1. Although nine-year-old Milo argues with his mum, he realises how important she is to him when she disappears. Draw or make a list of all the people who are close to you and write down why they are important to you. Can you think of some small ways to show those people how much you appreciate them?
2. How much something weighs depends on gravity. The Earth and Mars have different gravity, so an object that weighs 45kg on Earth would weigh 16.9kg on Mars. How much would an object that weighs 90kg on Earth, weigh on Mars? Use a range of scales to weigh some objects in your classroom. Can you use a calculator and the facts you know to work out how much the objects would weigh on Mars?
3. Imagine Martians came to your house like they do to Milo's. What would they think of all the different things in your house? Create a Martian's guide to the different household appliances (e.g. microwave, kettle) your family owns, explaining how they work and what they do.

Written by Matthew Poyton