

## Ramona and Beezus Study Notes



**Directed by:** Elizabeth Allen  
**Certificate:** U (contains infrequent very mild language)  
**Running time:** 103 mins  
**Release date:** 23 August 2010

### Synopsis:

The adventures of young Ramona Quimby and her big sister Beezus come to life in this film based on the best-selling books (over 30 million...and counting) by Beverly Cleary. Ramona's vivid imagination, boundless energy and accident-prone antics keep everyone she meets on their toes. But her irrepressible sense of fun, adventure and mischief come in handy when she puts her mind to helping save her family's home.

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

## Before seeing the film

1. Research the film by looking it up on the Internet Movie Database (imdb.com). Find out what you can about the storyline and the characters. Who do you think the target audience for this film is? Boys? Girls? Young? Teenage? Old? American? European? Explain your reasons.
2. What do you know about the actresses in the film? You may already know them from other TV shows or films. Does knowing the actors in a film make it more or less likely that you will go and see the film at the cinema? Why? Discuss this question in a group – make sure you listen to each other and take turns.
3. Using the film image above, try to work out some visual clues about the film... Where and when do you think it is set? Who is in it? Why is it called *Ramona and Beezus*? Looking at the style of the image, how do you think the story is told? What do you think the film is about?

## After seeing the film

1. Ramona is the 'little sister with the big imagination.' How does her big imagination help and hinder her? In groups, debate the following statement (with half of you arguing for and half arguing against the statement): 'Having a big imagination is always a good thing.'
2. Ramona and Beezus are sisters. Pretend to be Beezus. Write a diary entry as if you were her at the beginning of the film, and then again at the end of the film. Try to show how her character and relationship with her sister changed throughout the course of the film.
3. In the film, Ramona and Beezus try to draw 'the longest picture in the world.' Try to do the same in your class. Each of you should draw a picture that sums up the film. Connect the pictures together and display along the classroom or corridor wall.

*Written by Julie Green*