

A Tale of Two Mozzies



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Directed by: Jannik Hastrup, Flemming Quist Moller

Certificate: U

Running time: 75 mins

Synopsis:

Dagmar the dancing mosquito likes Egon, but Egon is busy achieving the ultimate sprint on his bike and wants to see the world. When wicked red ant queen Dominella and her soldiers kill the Black Ant Queen and take over her heap, our heroes are drawn into an exciting forest floor drama that puts their friendship to the test and forces them to use their talents to the utmost.

Suitable for:

These study notes address aspects of Literacy, PSHE and Citizenship for pupils between ages 10–13.

BEFORE SEEING THE FILM

- A Tale of Two Mozzies is not the first film to be made about the insect species. Make a list of other films about insects. Why do our six-legged friends make good stories? What is it about them that interests us?
- The beauty of animation is that you can make a film about anything that you like – even dancing mosquitos and ladybirds playing the drums. Talk to your partner – what subject or story would you like to make into an animated film?
- What if...Mosquitos could talk in real life? What would they say to you and to each other? Write a short dialogue between two mosquitoes flying around your bedroom on a warm, summer night.

AFTER SEEING THE FILM

- Describe how the film depicted the feeling of the forest looking still and quiet from a distance, but teeming with life on closer inspection. How were camera / colours / sound effects used to create this contrast?
- Draw a picture of Dominella surrounded by her army of red ants. Annotate your drawing to bring attention to the visual details that have gone into making her look like an out-and-out baddie.
- List the other insects that you saw in the film. Describe the colour palette of them and the setting of the film. How did the colours used help to place the film firmly in the 'children's animation' genre?

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 image of the soldier ant bowing to the two Mozzies in A4 or A3 size, plus some sticky notes.

Shot

With a partner, explore this film image 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 'Who, why, and how?' questions:

- Who is included in this image? Are they good or bad characters? How can you tell?
- Why do you think the animators chose to go for a hand-drawn feel for this film?
- Describe the colours of the plants and flowers behind the characters. Why include these? What effect would have been created if brambles or roses surrounded the characters?
- Create a thought bubble for each character in the picture. How are they feeling? How can you tell?

SHOT-PAIR-SHARE Activity 3

Share

A Tale of Two Mozzies is full of big, musical numbers. Dagmar, the dancing Mozzie shares music and dance with everyone that she meets – be it her beloved Egon, a wise old caterpillar or a circus flea. Create a flyer for a made-up band led by Dagmar and her cycling friend, Egon. The band is called 'The Musinsects' and they are on a European tour. Create an imaginary track list (of songs like 'Dancing Queen Ant' and 'Bughouse Rock') and a poster image that will convince people to come to their concert.

Success criteria:

MUST: you must include brief profile blurbs of the band members

SHOULD: you should include a list of their famous insect-themed songs

COULD: you should include a full schedule of the places and times of their European tour

Teacher: showcase the work of those who have come up with an original programme that strives to reach a new audience.

Written by Julie Green
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