



DC Shorts Family Showcase A Parents' Guide

Every film has a perspective to share. It is an opportunity to see the world through another's eyes, if only for a few minutes. The images, the music, and the dialogue are all carefully chosen by the filmmaker to create an experience for you, the film viewer.

The DC Shorts Family Showcase includes a variety of wonderful films for your enjoyment. All of them are appropriate for youth 3 and older; and although violence is discussed and depicted in several films, it is not graphic or gratuitous.

As you explore the issues shown in each film, consider the questions below. Then go a little deeper with the specific questions offered for each film.

- What is the purpose of the film (persuade / inform / entertain)?
- Who do you think created the film?
- Who was the film's intended audience?
- What techniques were used to tell the story and reach the audience?
- What was left out of the film?

A Martian Picnic

DIRECTOR: PATRICK NEARY, 5 MINUTES, ANIMATION, USA

A Martian competes with a mysterious creature for the contents of a picnic lunch.

Things to Consider: No instances of violence, sex, or inappropriate language. **Themes:** Confusion. **Discussion Questions:** 1. What Happened to Ollie and his dog? 2. Why did Ollie have a hard time knowing who took his lunch? 3. Who is the main character of this film, Ollie, the dog or the creature? Why?

Brad & Gary

DIRECTOR: PIERRE COFFIN, 7 MINUTES, ANIMATION, FRANCE

You can pick your friends and you can pick your nose, BUT you can't pick your friend's nose.

Things to Consider: No instances of violence, sex, or inappropriate language. **Themes:** Conflict resolution and learning from your mistakes. **Discussion Questions:** 1. How did the film's opening sequence give you an idea of what's to come? 2. What would you do if your finger got stuck in your ear or nose?

Amazonia

DIRECTOR: SAM CHEN, 5 MINUTES, ANIMATION, USA

Setting out to find lunch, a tree frog quickly learns that the hunter sometimes becomes the hunted.

Things to Consider: Instances of cartoon violence, but like mainstream animated films. No sex, or inappropriate language. **Themes:** Ecology and the environment and the cycle of life. **Discussion Questions:** 1. How animals in the wild get food and survive? 2. How many different animals/mammals can you spot?

I Like Apples

2 MINUTES, USA

Puppets sings the praise of this versatile fruit.

Things to Consider: No instances of violence, sex, or inappropriate language. **Themes:** Love and healthy eating. **Discussion Questions:** 1. Is the love of something, the same type of love of someone? 2. Where do we find apples and has anyone ever picked them in an orchard? 3. How many foods can you name that use apples? 4. The farmer loves apples...do you?

Hot Dog

DIRECTOR: BILL PLYMPTON, 6 MINUTES, ANIMATION, USA

A dog yearns to join the fire department despite his not knowing what to do.

Things to Consider: Instances of cartoon violence, but like mainstream animated films **Themes:** Adventure and journey and following your dreams. Determination **Discussion Questions:** 1. Do you think the dog should have given up on his dreams of firefighting? Why or why not? 2. What words describe someone who doesn't give up..like the dog? Do you share any of those qualities? 3. Why do you think the dog wanted to become a fireman? 4. What do fireman do to help people?

L'Amie De Zoe

DIRECTOR: DANNY ROBASHKIN and MATTHIEU ROUSSEL, 2 MINUTES, ANIMATION, USA

Zoe lives in a green planet where everything is green...until her new red friend Maho arrives and changes her life.

Things to Consider: No instances of violence, sex, or inappropriate language. **Themes:** Accepting peoples difference. **Discussion Questions:** 1. Is it fun to have an all green world or is important to have all different colors? 2. Who has friends that are different from them? How are they different? 3. Who wants to travel to make new friends and see new things?

Kite

DIRECTOR: UNREAL, 2 MINUTES, ANIMATION, USA

A young boy chases his wayward kite to discover a magical place where kites fly free.

Things to Consider: No instances of violence, sex, or inappropriate language. **Themes:** Adventure and journey; belief in magic. **Discussion Questions:** 1. Would you have kept chasing the kite as long as the boy? 2. What words describe someone who doesn't give up? Do you share any of those qualities? 3. Who is the main character of this film, the boy or the kite? Why?

Otis V. Monster

DIRECTOR: PATRICK NEARY, 3 MINUTES, ANIMATION, USA

Motivated by a modest reward, a hard luck lumberjack plots to capture Bigfoot.

Things to Consider: Cartoon monster and cartoon violence, no sex, or inappropriate language. **Themes:** Reward and motivation. **Discussion Questions:** 1. What method would you have used to try and capture the monster? 2. What materials were used to create the film? 3. When not chasing monsters what do lumberjacks do?

Jillian Dillon

DIRECTOR: YVETTE EDERY, 5 MINUTES, ANIMATION, USA

A hippoplatypus discovers that the universe provides solutions to even the most challenging and surreal situations.

Things to Consider: No instances of violence, sex, or inappropriate language. **Themes:** Bullying and mean kids. Heroism **Discussion Questions:** 1. Was it fair for the kids to be mean to Jillian and why do you think they were mean? 2. Was she a hero that day? What are some of the traits of being a hero? 3. Jillian was a Hippoplatypus..what would some other cool combinations of animals be and why?

Repaired

DIRECTOR: SEUNG-HOO IHM, 4 MINUTES, ANIMATION, USA

Two aliens try to work out their differences to fix their crashed UFO only to fall into an unexpected situation.

Things to Consider: No instances of violence, sex, or inappropriate language. **Themes:** Teamwork. **Discussion Questions:** 1. Do you think working together is important? Why? 2. Would you have done anything different than these two did? What? 3. What can you fix?

Snowyville

DIRECTOR: MICHAEL ATTARDI, 5 MINUTES, ANIMATION, USA

Ever wonder what magical things happen under your Christmas Tree?

Things to Consider: No instances of violence, sex, or inappropriate language. **Themes:** The magic of the holidays and what it takes to make it magical. **Discussion Questions:** 1. Why was the watch so important in the story? 2. In the film they celebrate Christmas, does everyone celebrate Christmas? Why not? 3. What is a dragonsaurus?