DISCOVERY FILM FESTIVAL

Scotland's International Film Festival for Young Audiences



Teachers' Resource: Shorts for Middle Ones 2021

First and Second Level

Created by Created by Helen Appleyard, Ian Cameron, Lindsey Law, Sarah Sturrock and Sonia MacEwan

Discovery Film Festival: Sat 23 October – Sun 7 November 2021



discoveryfilmfestival.org.uk

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Dinosaurs: The True Story

Directed by Paul-Louis Aeberhardt France 2020 / 4'22" No dialogue

Activities created by Sarah Sturrock

Synopsis of film

In the world where dinosaurs have survived and have evolved even to the point of taking their first steps on the moon, a giant asteroid heads towards Earth. The JASA (Jurassic Aeronautics and Space Administration) fight to avoid disaster.

This resource pack is aimed mostly at First Level and covers a range of subjects including Literacy and Expressive Arts. (LIT 1-05a, LIT 1-26a, EXA 1-13a)

"So many children are passionate when it comes to dinosaurs so I look forward to using that as inspiration in order to get the most out of their learning. This short film is interesting, clever and really funny. The children will love it."

"I always use film as an imperative part of my teaching. Whether it is used as a stimulus for writing or a discussion point, using the Cs and Ss for analysis or a basis for expressive arts, there is always a place for it in my classroom. I am so enthusiastic for it, as are the children."

Advisory: Although not completely explicit, it is inferred at the end of the short film that the dinosaurs on the moon watch the Earth being destroyed by the asteroid, thus killing the rest of the dinosaurs on Earth. This may be upsetting to some children, particularly the longer they spend completing the task.

Before watching the film

Watch the teaser for the film here: https://vimeo.com/522398466. Discuss the following questions in partners/small groups.

Discussion points/questions

- What things did you notice from what you watched? What things stood out to you?
- From watching the teaser, what do you think is going to happen in the film?

After watching the film

Discussion points/questions

- What was your favourite part of this short film and why? What did it make you feel?
- In the film, the dinosaurs managed to survive a lot longer than in real life. They got smarter what things did they manage to achieve? Answers such as set up their own version of NASA to be expected.
- What other things do you think they might have been able to do back on Earth.

Activity 1: Film Literacy – Character

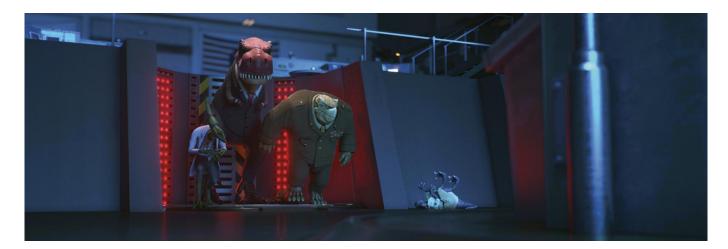
As a whole class discuss the following:

- Which characters stand out in the film? In what ways?
- Then, create a mind map of notes using your favourite character. You don't know their names as there is no talking in the film but you can draw a picture for the middle of your mind map or write what type of dinosaur they are.

Important information to include for example:

- What do you notice about their shape, colours, clothes, the way they move...
- Be sure to include any other important details about the character that you may have noticed.

As I listen or watch, I am learning to make notes under given headings and use these to understand what I have listened to or watched and create new texts. **LIT 1-05a**



Activity 2: Imaginative Writing

Imagine you are either working for JASA (Jurassic Aeronautics and Space Administration) or are a dinosaur on Earth before the asteroid hits. Create a diary entry from a typical day in the life of a dinosaur.

You'll need to think about:

- What species of dinosaur you are.
- What things exist in your dinosaur world use the discussion question to help you.

Remember, you need to include the following for a diary entry:

- Writing in the first person I, me, we etc.
- Talking about events in chronological order.
- Feelings.

By considering the type of text I am creating, I can select ideas and relevant information, organise these in a logical sequence and use words which will be interesting and/or useful for others. **LIT 1-26a**

Activity 3: Asteroid Drama

As a whole class talk about the importance of facial expressions in drama. Go through a few examples such as happiness, sadness and nervousness and how this can be shown with your face. Then, get the children to come up with some more examples. Work through a few different ones together.

Then, do the same with body language.

Split the class into small groups to create a piece of drama where they have to imagine they are dinosaurs living on Earth when the asteroid is coming towards them. They should start by creating a scene where they are living their lives as 'normal dinosaurs.' Then, they should create another scene where they can see the asteroid and may be curious at the start which soon turns into fear and panic. If you wish, they could also create an alternative ending where they all survive in order to avoid any upset.

As they complete this, the children should focus on body language and facial expression. You can encourage them to use mime to avoid them focusing on dialogue. This also links to the film, as it is dialogue free.

By considering the type of text I am creating, I can select ideas and relevant information, organise these in a logical sequence and use words which will be interesting and/or useful for others. **LIT 1-26a**

