



THIS FILM GUIDE is designed for educators, librarians, parents and anyone working with young people using film to inspire exploration, discovery and connection. Find film suggestions and PCFF film-specific guides for independent and international movies from past Festivals online at the PCFF Film Hub: [www.pcffri.org/filmhub](http://www.pcffri.org/filmhub)

New to talking about film? This guide and other PCFF Film Hub resources make it easy.

## GETTING STARTED | FILM SELECTION

- Choose the film you want to screen and discuss by considering relevant age range, rating, themes, run time, film type (live action, animation, documentary, etc.), and language (age-appropriate, international films dubbed or subtitled, etc.).
- Think about your audience needs (snacks, bathroom and movement breaks, setting, time constraints) to decide whether to show a feature film, a few short films, or a trailer.
- Decide in advance which questions and activities to use. For PCFF film selections, you can review the film summary provided in the Film Directory.
- Before you screen the film for an audience, watch it first and take notes.

## SET THE STAGE | THOUGHT-STARTERS

### BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Review a summary for the film you are about to watch. Discuss or put it into further context. Provide background information about the film only if you think it's necessary for audience engagement or understanding.

### WORDS TO KNOW

If there are difficult words or concepts, it may be a good idea to first ask your audience about their prior knowledge. Below is a brief list of film vocabulary you can use to introduce film language. A more comprehensive Film Glossary is available online at the PCFF Film Hub ([www.pcffri.org/filmhub](http://www.pcffri.org/filmhub)), if you want to go even deeper into the language of film.

- **ANIMATION:** The appearance or illusion of movement when a series of drawings, computer graphics, or photographs of objects (such as puppets or models) are viewed in sequence.
- **CHARACTER:** A person (may be an animal or anthropomorphic object) in a story.
- **CINEMATOGRAPHY:** The art and technique of making motion pictures. This includes how the film uses light, shadow, color, movement, and composition within the frame.
- **DOCUMENTARY:** A type of film that attempts to explain reality.
- **EDITING:** The selection, manipulation, and combination of shots to create structure and story.
- **FRAME:** A single, still image of a film or video.
- **GENRE:** A category marked by similar subject matter, style, and form. Examples of film and literary genres include horror, fantasy, comedy, and science fiction.
- **PLOT:** Basic layout or path of the story.
- **SCRIPT/SCREENPLAY:** A written story including dialogue.
- **SETTING:** The place and time where the story of the film is located.
- **SOUND:** Music, dialogue, or other noises heard or not heard.



Pay attention while watching

Clues and Cues

- Notice how sound is used in the film. How does this set the mood?
- Pay attention to the perspective (or point of view) of the camera.
- Look for other techniques used to attract and keep your attention (lighting, pace, etc.)



Press play...but don't walk away!

Stay in the room and engage with the film and your audience. Don't hesitate to pause / skip / repeat / replay and ask questions along the way.



## TALK ABOUT IT | DISCUSSION

- What did you notice about how sound was used in the film?
- What other techniques were used to attract and keep your attention?
- What lifestyles, values, and cultures were represented?
- Whose perspective did we see? Were other points of view shown?
- What characters or issues could you relate to, and why?
- How did the narrative (story) unfold? What was the crisis or conflict? How was it resolved?
- How might different people interpret this film?
- Who made this film and what is its purpose? (inform, entertain, etc.)
- What was omitted from this film that you might want to know?
- Describe your most memorable scene in the film.
- If you made this film, would you change anything?

## GET CREATIVE | EXTENSION ACTIVITIES



For Activity Reel details, downloadable storyboard template and more, visit the the Film Hub website: [www.pcffri.org/FilmHub](http://www.pcffri.org/FilmHub)

### AND EVEN MORE IDEAS

- Consider preparing snacks that complement the story or re-create a meal from the film.
- Listen to the film soundtrack by itself. What did you hear that you didn't during the movie? Why do you think those selections were made?
- Write your own story about what happens next. It could become the sequel!

## MAKE CONNECTIONS | ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Visit the official film website, view special features, watch or listen to director interviews. Select other relevant links and reviews, along with available books, films, or community connections to complement the film and inspire further discussion, programming, or activities.

### ABOUT THE FILM

Film Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Approximate Total Run Time (TRT): (short or feature length) \_\_\_\_\_

Additional Notes: (e.g. themes, audience, genre, cultural considerations) \_\_\_\_\_

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