



Le Tableau (The Painting)

This exquisitely animated story is set within the world of a beautiful but incomplete painting long ago abandoned by its creator. In his absence, the figures in the painting have taken over the narrative to serve their own ends. The Allduns, the fully painted figures, discriminate against the other two groups: the Halfies and the Sketchies. But things change when a romance begins between a Halfie and a revolutionary Alldun. Members of each of these three "social classes" head out on an adventure looking for the painter. They hope that they can convince him to complete his work and resolve the social problems they face.

Recommended for ages 10+

Themes: cross-cultural understanding, discrimination, identity, inequality, self-determination, self image, social change, social class, stereotypes, violence

Director(s): Jean-Francois Laguionie | **78 min** | **Animation** | **2012** | **Country:** France | **Language:** French w/English subtitle



SET THE STAGE | THOUGHT-STARTERS

WORDS TO KNOW

- **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.
- **Allegory:** A story in which the characters and events are symbols that stand for ideas or situations.
- **Sketch:** A rough or unfinished drawing or painting, often made to assist in making a more finished picture.

For more film terms, refer to the PCFF Film Glossary (pcfri.org/FilmHub)



Clues and Cues

Pay attention while watching

- Notice the shift in animation styles.
- Notice the color changes.

TALK ABOUT IT | DISCUSSION

- Have you ever been in a situation in which one group acted superior to others? What resulted from their actions? How did it make people feel?
- Describe the three character groups in this film: the Allduns, the Halfies, and the Sketchies. What do they each look like? How do they behave toward each other? What do they think of each other? Where do they live? How would you describe their experiences in the world of the film?
- Ramo has different beliefs from the other Allduns. How would you describe his point of view? How do the rest of the Allduns react to him expressing it? Which point of view do you agree with and why?
- When Lola, Ramo, and the Sketchie set off into the forest, what are they hoping to find? What would you do if you were in their situation? Explain why.
- Lola, Ramo, and the Sketchie wonder what they would ask the painter if they saw him. What would you want to ask the painter and why?
- What information do they learn about the painter from exploring his house? What does it make you think about the painter as a character? (Clues to consider: the slashed paintings, the disgruntled self-portrait, the nude, the photographs and sketches.)
- Near the end of the film, Lola goes back to the painter's house and finds him. When the painter appears, the movie changes from only animation to live action and animation. Why did the filmmakers make this choice? How does it change the feeling or effect of the film?
- When Lola tells the painter that people are upset he hasn't finished them, he says he "gave them all the basics" and "a simple design is often more beautiful than a fully finished painting." What do you think this means? Do you agree or disagree and why? Who determines what is considered beautiful? Why doesn't Lola ask the painter to complete her? What does this tell us about her character? What would you do in her situation and why?
- Can you find any parallels between their world and ours? Does our society discriminate against people because of their appearance? Are the categories in the movie similar to social categories in the US?

GET CREATIVE | EXTENSION ACTIVITIES



For Activity Reel details, downloadable storyboard template and more, visit the the Film Hub website: www.pcfri.org/FilmHub

• Writing Prompt

Think about examples of discrimination from the news, history, or in your life. Ramo spoke out about it and tried to change the way people thought and acted. Like Ramo, write what you would say to others to help stop discrimination from happening.

• Collage

Materials: Magazines, drawing materials, glue, scissors

Many films combine live action and animation, from Mary Poppins and Who Framed Roger Rabbit to the Star Wars and The Lord of the Rings films (even though the animation in the latter two isn't easy to recognize because it is so realistic). For this activity, create a collage combining photographs from magazines with drawings. How do the fictional drawings and real photographs change when they're together? What is the effect of this juxtaposition of fantasy and reality? Do you think it's funny, strange, or something else? Discuss.

• Defining Beauty

Materials: Magazines, drawing materials, glue, scissors

This film explores the concept of beauty. What is beauty? Who determines what is beautiful? For this activity, look through popular magazines and create a list of contemporary standards of beauty. You can consider different concepts of beauty around the world, in particular places with different standards than where you are from.

MAKE CONNECTIONS | ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

The following resources complement the film and inspire further discussion or programming.

BOOKS

• The Story of Ruby Bridges

by Robert Coles

This picture book about Ruby Bridges, the first African-American student in 1960 to enter an all-white school in New Orleans.

• Martin's Big Words

by Doreen Rappaport

This picture book makes Martin Luther King's main ideas accessible to children by combining illustrations with words from his own speeches.

FILMS

• Boy and the World

(O Menino e o Mundo) (2013)

This wordless, evocative, uniquely original animated film follows Cuca, a young Brazilian boy who ventures from his simple countryside home into a neon-infused, carnivalesque metropolis in search of his father.

• Magic Silver (2009)

A Norwegian tale about the red and blue gnomes adventures once their magic silver is stolen.

• Wunderkinder (2011)

Three musically talented children look to the future, but their hopes crumble when Germany and Russia enter into war.

• Indicates PCFF festival selection

BEYOND THE FILM | RELATED INTERNET LINKS

Lessons Plans about the Civil Rights Movement:

- This lesson plan provides an interactive civil rights timeline and activities about the March on Washington. www.pbs.org/newshour/extra/lessons_plans/the-50th-anniversary-of-the-march-on-washington-lesson-plan-a-time-for-change/
- This lesson plan exposes students to the different perspectives of Malcolm X and Martin Luther King. edsitement.neh.gov/curriculum-unit/competing-voices-civil-rights-movement
- A collection of civil rights lesson plans for a wide range of age groups based on materials from the Library of Congress. www.loc.gov/teachers/classroommaterials/themes/civil-rights/lessonplans.html