



# Making Movies Matter

How to engage youth in educational themes derived from movies

<http://www.TrulyMovingPictures.org>

# Heartland Programs

- Truly Moving Picture Award
  - *Precious, Where the Wild Things Are, The Boys Are Back, etc.*



- Heartland Film Festival
- Education Programming
- National Partnerships

# Heartland Truly Moving Picture Award

"Absolute dynamite! The chemistry between Nicholson and Freeman is outstanding."

- Marshall Fine, STAR MAGAZINE



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You only live once, so why not go out in style? That's what two cancer-ward roommates, an irascible billionaire (Jack Nicholson) and a scholarly mechanic (Morgan Freeman), decide when they get the bad news. They compose a bucket list - things to do before you kick the bucket - and head off for the around-the-world adventure of their lives. Sky dive? Check. Power a Shelby Mustang around a racetrack? Check. Gaze at the Great Pyramid of Khufu? Check. Discover the joy in their lives before it's too late? Check!

Under the nimble direction of Rob Reiner, the two great stars provide the heart and soul, wit and wiles of this inspired salute to life that proves that the best time of all is right now.

Includes both Widescreen and Full-Screen formats on one disc.



### SPECIAL FEATURES

- ◆ Commentary with Marc Forster, Khaled Hosseini and David Benioff
- ◆ Words from The Kite Runner
- ◆ Images from The Kite Runner
- ◆ Theatrical Trailer

Special Features Not Rated

soar and their friendship deepens, they discover how to rule their own kingdom, fight the forces of darkness and change their lives forever. Based on the Newbery Medal-winning book, **Bridge To Terabithia** will take you on a journey you'll never forget.

### BONUS FEATURES

- "Digital Imagination: Bringing Terabithia To Life"
- "Behind The Book: The Themes Of Bridge To Terabithia"
- Music Video "Keep Your Mind Wide Open" Performed By AnnaSophia Robb
- Audio Commentary With Director Gabor Csupo, Writer Jeff Stockwell And Producer Hal Lieberman
- Audio Commentary With Actors Josh Hutcherson And AnnaSophia Robb And Producer Lauren Levine

### SPECIFICATIONS

- May Only Apply To Feature Film
- Dolby Digital 5.1 Surround Sound
- French And Spanish Language Tracks
- French And Spanish Subtitles
- Widescreen (1.85:1)
- Enhanced For 16x9 Televisions



WALT DISNEY PICTURES AND WALDEN MEDIA PRESENT A HAL LIEBERMAN COMPANY PRODUCTION A LAUREN LEVINE PRODUCTION "BRIDGE TO TERABITHIA" JOSH HUTCHERSON ANNASOPHIA ROBB ROBERT PATRICK AND ZOEY DESCHANEL COSTUME DESIGNER STEPHANIE CORSALINI CSA EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS KEVIN HALLORAN AND GEORGE ACOGNY PRODUCED BY AARON ZIGMAN DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY MICHAEL CHAPMAN ASC WRITTEN BY HAL LIEBERMAN LAUREN LEVINE DAVID PATERSON BASED UPON THE BOOK BY KATHERINE PATERSON SCREENPLAY BY JEFF STOCKWELL AND DAVID PATERSON DIRECTED BY GABOR CSUPO

# Impact of Media on Youth

- Youth ages 8-18 spend approximately 6.5 hours each day using media
- Television averages 3 hours 51 minutes a day
- Youth ages 8-18 **daily** spend approximately 1 hour 44 minutes listening to music, just over an hour using the computer, 49 minutes playing video games, 43 minutes reading and 25 minutes watching movies.
- That equals 9,125 minutes or 152 hours per year for movies!

# Impact of Media on Youth

- Youth do not respond passively to media, but rather observe and retain messages that are conveyed over time.
- Youth of different ages have distinct preferences and aspire to watch movies with higher ratings than may be deemed appropriate for their age.

# Movies that Impacted You

## **Movie Memories Exercise**

- Can you recall movies that you watched during your childhood or adolescence that touched your life in a meaningful way?
- List some movies that either exposed you to a new way of thinking or had plots and/or characters that you learned from.

# Movies that Impacted You

## **Ask yourself the following questions:**

- Why did each of these movies have an impact on my life?
- Did I relate specifically to any of the characters in these movies? How so?
- Did I have the opportunity to converse with family members, teachers or friends about these movies? If so, what did these conversations provide for me?
- Were any of these movies based on books?
- If I were to see, or have seen, any of these movies again as an adult, would/did they have the same effect?

# What Youth Want to Watch

- The movies youth choose will challenge their way of thinking because they are in the process of constructing their identity.
- Youth will often select movies that have characters that they can either identify with (age, race, gender, interests, etc.) or aspire to be like.

# What Youth Want to Watch

- What are those movies youth in your organization are discussing?
- What themes and ratings are they leaning towards?
- As far as you can tell, what are the themes of these films and are there potential educational themes found within?

# What Youth Want to Watch

- In an investigation of how youth define the programs they watch, it was found that youth under the age of 10 are more likely to willingly accept the authority of their parents in the media selection process.
- Pre-school children in particular tend to watch programs specifically designed for their age range.
- Around the age of 10 youth begin to aspire to a slightly older teen lifestyle. This is reflected in their selection of programs and movies to watch.

# What Youth Want to Watch

- Research has demonstrated that the media plays a significant role in the socialization of youth. Socialization refers to learning one's culture and how to live within it.
- Media content consumed by children is likely to shape their perceptions of the real world and the people operating within it.

# What Youth Want to Watch

- With the beginning of adolescence, youth begin to develop abstract thinking capabilities. As a result, they become more in-tune with social norms and more concerned with discovering an identity acceptable among their peers. Depictions in the media come to serve as learning guides through which social norms are internalized.

# Using Movies as Teaching Tools

- Parents can lead children in discussions and activities after viewing a movie together.
- English teachers can select a movie based on a piece of literature, using segments of the movie to engage youth in the book.
- Social studies teachers can find a movie that covers a historical period he or she is teaching.
- Youth workers can use movies to teach important character education skills such as leadership, setting goals and becoming advocates for a particular cause.

# How to Select Appropriate Movies

While a movie appropriate for youth under the age of 17 (rated PG-13 or below) could potentially fit into any of the preceding genres, it is important to examine movies for their teaching potential. As a general rule of thumb, you should assess movies for their “teachable” content versus pure entertainment content. When entertainment outweighs the educational components, it can most likely be eliminated from the list. Of the all movie genres, movies with positive themes will likely emerge from the following categories:

- Adventure
- Coming-of-Age
- Fantasy
- Science Fiction
- Social Drama
- Detective
- Epic/Myth

# How to Select Appropriate Movies

## **Understand your audience**

Once you have selected a movie with a rating and content appropriate for the age of your youth there are other considerations, such as other demographic areas of importance including racial and ethnic composition and gender distribution.

## **Understanding needs and interests**

In addition to basic demographical information, choose themes that will benefit or supplement the education of your youth in some fashion.

# Developing Themes and Questions

## Out-of-School Facilitator:

- What character or emotional skill sets do youth at this age need to develop?
- Do I already lead a workshop on a particular topic that can be bolstered by a movie?
- What are some shared interests of my group (sports, music, art, friendships, etc.)?

# Developing Themes and Questions

Teacher:

- Which of my lesson plans could use some added spark via a movie?
- What academic skills could a majority of my youth improve upon?
- What themes from the literature we are reading or will read can be enhanced by the visual representation of a movie?

# Developing Themes and Questions

Parent:

- What are my child's current interests?
- What skills do I hope my child will gain in the coming year?
- What are my child's problem areas at home or school?

# Developing Themes and Questions

- Examine the setting of the movie – especially if you are a language arts or social studies teacher, you will want to look at the historical context, location and time period.
- Examine the main characters – take notes on family and peer relationships, their cultural or ethnic backgrounds, obstacles, decision-making, conflicts and resolutions, etc.
- Reflect on the overall movie
- Select the themes
- Organize your notes

# Implementing the Program

- How will we be screening the movie? Do we have access to a DVD player/TV or computer/projector?
- Do we have a large enough space for youth to split into small groups for certain activities?
- Will we be able to provide paper, pens/pencils, scissors and basic art supplies for activities?
- Are the rights to screening the film a

# Questions?

- Visit Heartland's website to download all of our resources and participate in our online community:

[www.TrulyMovingPictures.org](http://www.TrulyMovingPictures.org)

- Find the Teaching with Movies Guide here:

[www.trulymovingpictures.org/FILM/Pages/Curricula.aspx](http://www.trulymovingpictures.org/FILM/Pages/Curricula.aspx)

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