



## Alike

Directed by Daniel Martinez Lara and Rafa Cano Méndez

Spain 2015 / 8 mins

Activities created by Joy Christie

### Synopsis

In the daily routine of work and school, Copi tries his best to make his son, Paste, understand what is right and wrong in life. But Paste sees the world in a different light and teaches his father the importance of being creative and unique whilst listening to what your heart is telling you.

### Underlying themes

Happiness, love, parental relationships, alienation, dehumanization, society, rules, struggle, systems and the power of music

### Before the film

Look at the poster advertising the film below, with the name blanked out. In groups discuss what the short could be about and come up with a title, justifying your reasons for it.

Reveal the real name of the film and promote further discussion.



Watch the trailer at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uSJ6oLxNNr0>

Encourage the children to make predictions about what they have watched.

- **What kind of film do we think this is? Funny/sad/action/scary/romance?**
- **What do we think about the characters we have seen?**
- **Where do you think the film is set?**

*As I listen or watch, I can identify and discuss the purpose, key words and main ideas of the text, and use this information for a specific purpose. LIT 1-04a*

*As I listen or watch, I can identify and discuss the purpose, main ideas and supporting detail contained within the text, and use this information for different purposes. LIT 2-04a*

*I can show my understanding of what I listen to or watch by responding to and asking different kinds of questions. LIT 1-07a*

*I can show my understanding of what I listen to or watch by responding to literal, inferential, evaluative and other types of questions, and by asking different kinds of questions of my own. LIT 2-07a*



## After the film

### Activity 1 **Reading the film through colour**

The film has no dialogue yet its plot is very powerful. This is helped by the clever use of colour in the film.

Split your class into colour tables (eg, greys, reds, blues etc) and watch the film again, each group noting down the content in the film of varying colours.

You can watch the whole film again here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kQjtK32mGJQ>

Once notes have been taken discuss the following:

- Which colour is used the most and what things does it represent?
- Why was this colour appropriate?
- What colours are used to change the mood of the film?
- What feelings do they represent?
- Which colours are important to make certain characters stand out? Do you agree with the colours chosen or could this have been done differently?

*I can show my understanding of what I listen to or watch by responding to literal, inferential, evaluative and other types of questions, and by asking different kinds of questions of my own.*

**LIT 2-07a**

### Activity 2 **Summarising**

Ask the pupils to reduce the film to the five/six main parts that need to be in the story. These can be laid out in storyboard format or under headings in a jotter.

Rewrite the storyboard once planned and take a new paragraph for every change of scene.

*To show my understanding across different areas of learning, I can identify and consider the purpose and main ideas of a text. **LIT 1-16a***

*To show my understanding across different areas of learning, I can identify and consider the purpose and main ideas of a text and use supporting detail. **LIT 2-16a***

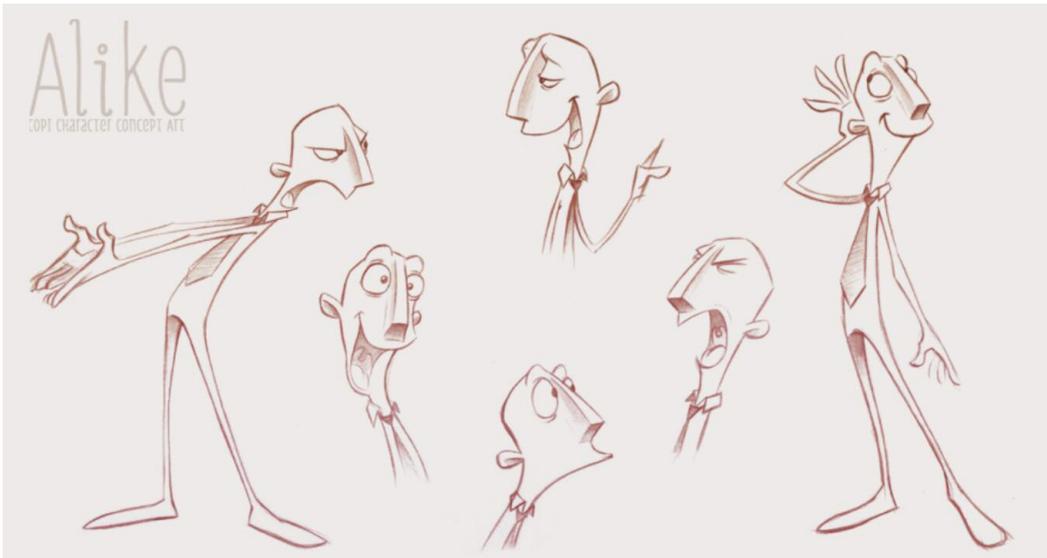
Activity 3 **Bringing the characters to life**

Visit the site to see behind the scenes previews at some of the background work for *Alike*.!

<http://alike-short.blogspot.co.uk/p/artwork.html>

Explain the names of the two main characters, Copi (dad) and Paste (son). Discuss possible reasons behind these names. How does this deepen your understanding of the film?

Look carefully at the sketches of the characters below:



You can see similar characters in these shots from a previous film by the same director called *Changes*.



After discussing these characters and their similarities and differences try sketching one.

Using plasticene try making a model of a similar character. Using an iPad and iMotion app create a scene for your character, moving them bit by bit to create a short film. Be adventurous, remembering the importance of colour in the film and the message it was trying to create.

Use this video to help you if you haven't used iMotion before:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BHjbEGe6E9I>

*I can extend and enhance my knowledge of digital technologies to collect, analyse ideas, relevant information and organise these in an appropriate way. TCH 2-01a*

## Activity 4 **Through the characters' eyes**

Use the resource cards provided with your class. Paste and his father Copi may live in the same house but their view of life is very different at the start of the film.

Split the class into small groups of 3 or 4. Using the resource cards, ask each group to sort the statements into Paste's thoughts and his dad's thoughts. Then sort each pile into a diamond nine pattern, with what you think the characters' strongest feelings are at the top, and the least strongest at the bottom.

Look at other groups. Is there a consensus? This is an excellent way to generate good quality group discussion.

*I can show my understanding of what I listen to or watch by responding to literal, inferential, evaluative and other types of questions, and by asking different kinds of questions of my own. LIT 2-07a*

<b>I wish he would hurry up in the morning</b>	<b>I want to play the violin</b>	<b>I wish he'd play with me</b>
<b>I'm so tired</b>	<b>Why doesn't he just do what he's told?</b>	<b>I feel like I'm a disappointment</b>
<b>Nobody likes what I do</b>	<b>Nobody appreciates me</b>	<b>I wish I was brave enough to perform like him</b>
<b>Everyone looks so sad</b>	<b>There's no time for fun in this life</b>	<b>It's a busy life and we just have to keep working hard</b>
<b>I wish he would talk to me – really talk</b>	<b>Look at that man playing the violin – how silly!</b>	<b>I will never succeed</b>
<b>I enjoy giving a hug</b>	<b>Let's do exciting things that make us laugh</b>	<b>We have to follow the rules or we will stand out and be different</b>