

DISCOVERY FILM FESTIVAL

Scotland's International Film Festival
for Young Audiences



Teachers' Resource Pack: **When Mumbo Jumbo Grew Giant**

First and Second Level | Created by Tinike Dingwall

Discovery Film Festival | Mon 2 – Wed 18 November 2026

DCA

Dundee Contemporary Arts

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Introduction

Discovery Learning Resources give you exciting classroom activities to enhance Curriculum for Excellence delivery.

They are created by classroom teachers and education professionals.

Each resource aims to:

- support and extend working with film in the classroom
- help prepare teachers for a class visit to a Discovery Film Festival film and to extend the impact of that visit for delivery of CfE
- develop confidence in Moving Image Education approaches and working with 21st Century Literacy/moving image texts

Each resource is free and available to download from:

<https://www.dca.org.uk/discovery-film-festival-resources/>

Mumbo Jumbo

Dir: Karsten Kiilerich

Denmark 2026 / 2h23m

English language



Mumbo Jumbo

Synopsis:

Mumbo Jumbo lives safely at home with his mum in the small valley. But one day everything gets turned on its head. Mumbo accidentally eats a Myselie-mushroom, and in the next second he has grown giant – too big to sleep inside in mum’s cozy cottage.

Luckily the Mandrill, Frede, has the solution to the problem, but part of the solution is a hike all the way to Siberia. Oh, and a meeting with the witch Baba Jaga. Mumbo’s good friends the Tapir, the Cheetah and Mumbo Jumbo are all along for the ride. Not that that solves all the problems but at least they are all together on the perilous journey. It is not easy being small, but it isn’t easy being a giant either. And if you manage to handle a peculiar witch and become small again, then it isn’t easy coming back home again. One must hope that Mumbo Jumbo has developed a strong ability to make decisions or else it is going to be an impossible task.

Advisory note:

There is a witch in the film, although she is described as scary by other characters, she is actually friendly and helpful. There is a song about her when she makes things come alive but again nothing bad happens.

Teacher’s notes:

Age and stage recommendations, including CfE objectives:

The film is suitable for ages 5 and above. This pack is aimed at Early and First Level learners. This film is recommended for P1–3. The following CfE Experiences and Outcomes are covered in this pack:

Literacy and English: **LIT 0-04a, LIT 1-04a, LIT 1-07a, LIT 0-19a, LIT 0-26a, LIT 1-22a**

Expressive Arts (Art and Design): **EXA 0-06a, EXA 1-06a (Drama) EXA 0-14a, EXA 1-14a, EXA 0-15a, EXA 1-15a**

Health and Wellbeing: **HWB 0-05a, HWB 1-05a, HWB 0-08a, HWB 1-08a, HWB 0-01a, HWB 1-01a**

Technologies: **TCH 0-09a, TCH 1-09a, TCH 0-10a, TCH 1-10a**

Social Studies: **SOC 0-09a**

Teacher quote:

This film has themes of community, friendship, adventure, self-acceptance, love, resilience and bravery. The main characters are all animals who work together to help their friend Mumbo Jumbo return to himself. Along the way the characters encounter challenges but work through these together. The witch is the only human character in the film and although described as scary, she is actually kind and helpful to main characters, showing you should not always judge a character by their name.

The characters show bravery and use the great quote *“Sometimes you need to be braver than you think you are”*, a quote I may even display in my classroom. The story is full of adventure with some funny side characters along the way especially Tapir and Croc. The settings in the story are very visual and very different allowing great discussion on how settings can change the mood of a story. This film has a great story with a very happy ending and so many discussion points along the way. An easy to follow, very visual storyline that any class would enjoy. As the director said, *“They should leave the cinema thinking: Maybe it’s okay to be different, maybe I can be brave too, and maybe the world isn’t so scary after all.”*





Before watching the film:

Activity 1: **Film Poster (Discussion and Prediction)**

Look at the movie poster in **Appendix 1**. This could be printed out for pupils to look at in small groups or displayed on an interactive whiteboard.

- Discuss what they think the movie might be about?
- Look at the characters on the poster. Who do they think is the main character and why?
- How does one character stand out from the others? (His size)
- Where do they think the film is set?
- What do they think might happen in the film?

Watch the film trailer :

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

- Does this change any of the pupil's thoughts from their poster discussions?
 - Are they looking forward to seeing the movie?
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Activity 2: **Being Large (Health and Wellbeing)**

Mumbo Jumbo ends up being large.

Brainstorm what the problems with being so large might be. Some are shown in the film such as not fitting in your house and having to drink lots not the feel thirsty. What other ones are there? Ideas include not fitting on your bike, not fitting into your clothes and not being able to play your favourite sports.

There are also benefits to being large, again the film shows how he can help build the stage and travel great distances. What other benefits are there? Ideas include reaching high things and other physical tasks.

This activity can be completed as a discussion, or pupils could note their ideas down on large sheets of paper.

Appendix 2 is included as a sheet for pupils to note their ideas if needed.

Activity 3: **Design/Build a transport method (Technology)**

Look at the image below.

Mumbo Jumbo uses a hot air balloon and a bathtub to take his friends on his travels with him. There are good points and bad points to this transport method (Good – they can look from high up to find the correct path, Bad – at one point in the film it floats away into space). Discuss the current transportation method and its benefits and weaknesses.

Then pupils can design their own transport method for Mumbo Jumbo friends.

This can be done individually, in pairs or in groups.

This could also be taken a step further and the pupils could create their own transport methods based on their designs.

Appendix 3 is a task card with some of the main points that pupils need to consider when designing their transport method.





Activity 4: **Map Making (Social Studies)**

Mumbo Jumbo and his friends go on an epic adventure together, following the instructions on how to get to the dark forest. Pupils can create a map of the journey. They can include some of the main landmarks, which include – the Little Valley, the Highway (maybe with the gas station marked), the sea (including the wind turbines), the dam, the mountains, the dark forest, the shiny lake and finally Baba Yaga's house.

Extension possibility – map out the route back (did they go the same way home?).

See **Appendix 4** for visual prompts.

Activity 5: **Colour (Film Literacy)**

Colour is used to build up feelings in this film. When the characters are feeling happy, the setting is usually colourful. However, when the characters are feeling unhappy or scared the setting is usually dark.

Task – Use **Appendix 5** worksheet.

This task can be completed as a whole class, or in groups or individually. Beside each image pupils should note how the characters are feeling. As they have only seen the film once it might be good to remind them with a general discussion first.

Activity 6: **Friendship (Drama)**

There is a strong theme of friendship in this film. Discuss what makes a good friend.

Drama activity – how could you be a good friend in the following situations?

Pupils could work in pairs or small groups and then act out their answers. Other pupils could then give positive feedback on what they liked.

Use **Appendix 6** for drama cards. I have included some blank cards so you can add any scenarios relevant to your class.



Activity 7: **Brave (Health and Wellbeing)**

There is a theme of bravery in this film. With the line “*Sometimes you need to be braver than you think you are*”. Discuss with pupils what being brave is. They can share with a partner a time they were brave.

Task – **Appendix 7** worksheet.

Pupils to complete the sentence about a time they were brave and then can draw a picture to go with it.

Activity 8: **Story Writing (Literacy)**

In the film, Mumbo Jumbo eats a Myselie-mushroom and grows very large. Imagine you ate a Myselie-mushroom and something happened to you. You could grow large like Mumbo Jumbo, or you could shrink to be tiny, or you could be able to fly, anything you like.

- What would you do this with this change?
- How would you feel?
- Would you like to stay like that or go back to your old self?

Write a short story about eating the Myselie-mushroom and what happened to you. Remember to include your feelings and if you changed back to your old self.

This could be done verbally with younger pupils.

Appendix 1: Poster





Appendix 2: Being Large

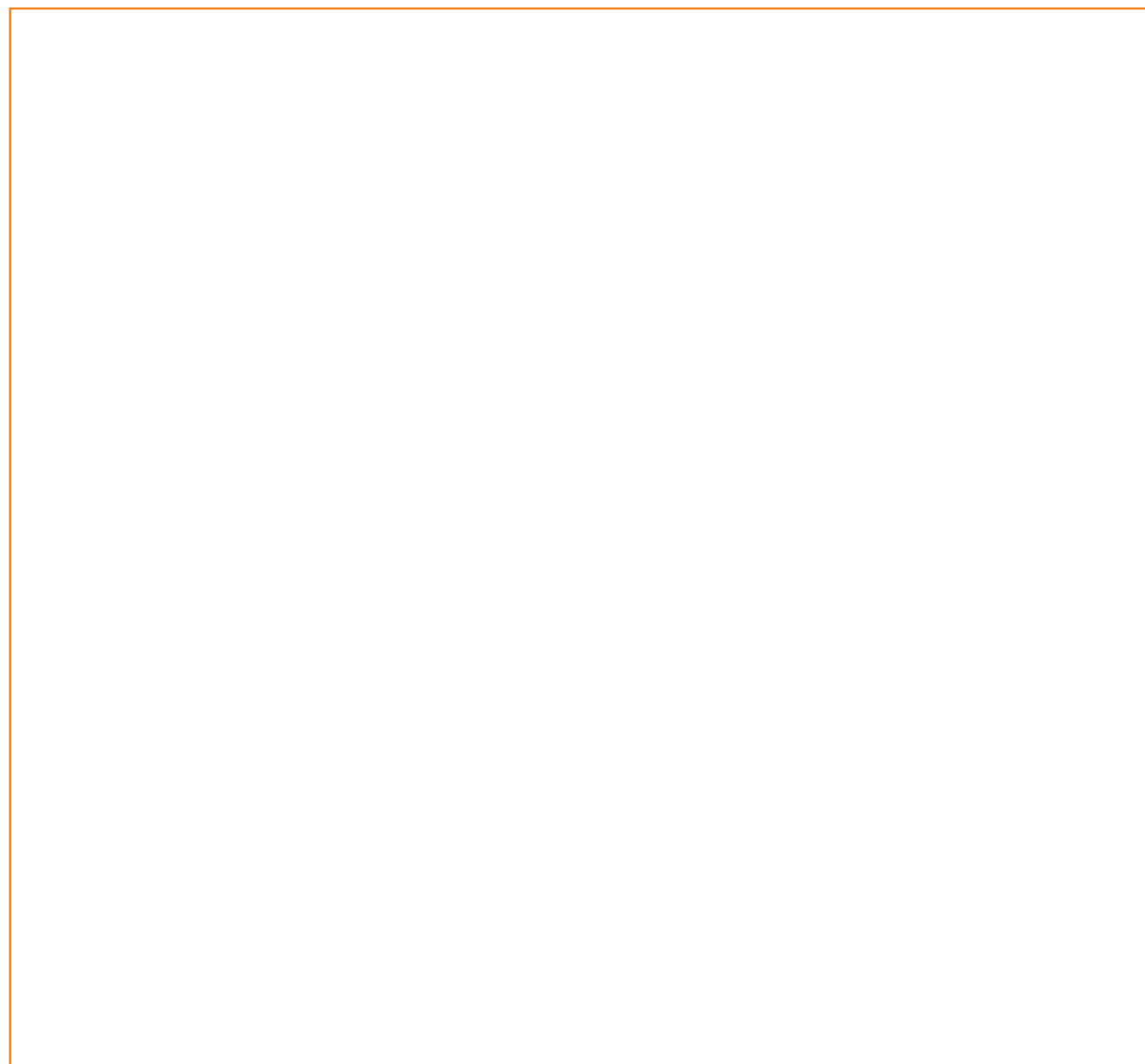
Advantages to being large	Disadvantages to being large



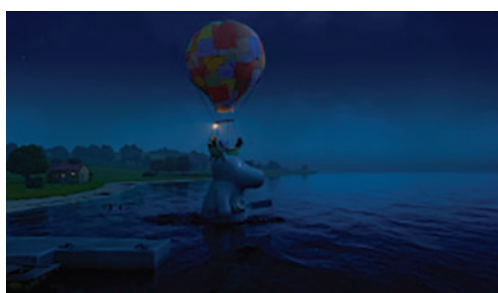


Appendix 3: Transport method – Task Card

- The transport method must have room in it for 3 friends.
- Mumbo Jumbo must be able to carry or push or pull the transport method.
- How could you make the transport method comfortable for the friends?
- Is the transport method waterproof?
- Remember to label your transport method to show what you have used to make it.

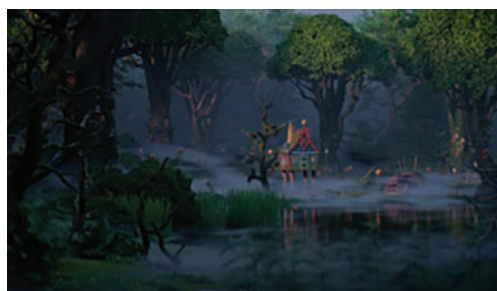


Appendix 4: Map



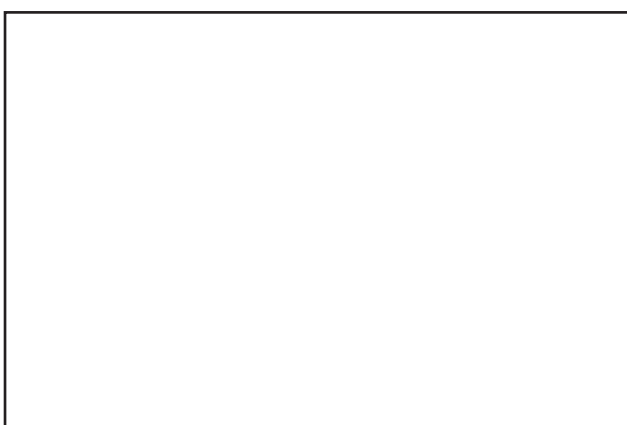
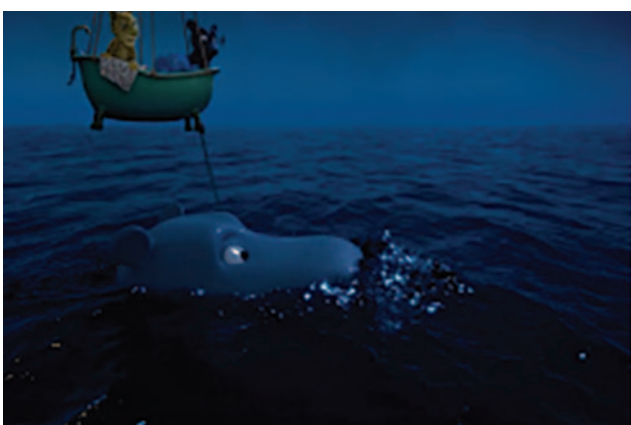
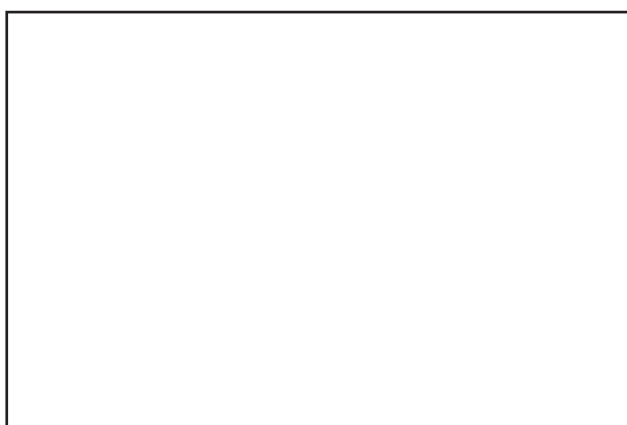


Appendix 4: Map





Appendix 5: Film Literacy Worksheet





Appendix 5: Film Literacy Worksheet



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Appendix 6: Friendship Drama Cards

Your friend has lost their favourite toy.	Your friend has fallen and hurt their knee.	Your friend is finding their schoolwork tricky.	Your friend is scared of the dark.
Your friend doesn't want to play the same game as you.	Your friend is feeling unwell.	Your friend misses their Mum who is away with work.	Your friend didn't win any races on sports day.
Your friend doesn't like dancing in PE.	Your friend is having to move house and is worried about it.	Your friend's Granny is in hospital.	Your friend spilt water on their favourite picture.
Your friend wasn't invited to a birthday party.	Your friend is worried about moving classes next year.		





Appendix 7: Brave Worksheet

A time I was brave was





Evaluating this resource

We hope that you found this resource useful and appropriate. Please do send us any film reviews, letters from your pupils, documentation of classwork and your feedback by e-mailing olivia.knight@dca.org.uk

Would you make a good Discovery Film Festival Case Study?

We are seeking a number of simple Case Studies in how teachers have used or are using Discovery films in the classroom across Curriculum for Excellence and across the Levels.

Any case studies that we develop would be intended for presentation on GLOW, the Creativity Portal and on Discovery Film Festival websites. We have a simple template to be completed and are keen to have classwork and documentation included. If you would like to be a Discovery Case Study please e-mail olivia.knight@dca.org.uk