

DISCOVERY FILM FESTIVAL

Scotland's International Film Festival
for Young Audiences

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Teachers' Resource Pack: **Tales From the Magic Garden**

First and Second level | Created by Sarah Sturrock

Discovery Film Festival: Sun 25 October – Sun 2 November 2025

DCA

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ONE CITY, MANY DISCOVERIES

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dca.org.uk/discovery-film-festival

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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/>

Tales from the Magic Garden

Dirs: David Súpup, Patrik Pašš, Leon Vidmar, Jean-Claude Rozec

Czech Republic, Slovakia, Slovenia, France / 2025 / 71mins

Czech

Tales from the Magic Garden

Synopsis:

Three children spend the night at their grandfather's house. In the quiet left behind by their late grandmother – the family's storyteller – they invent tales of their own, uncovering the magic of imagination.

Advisory note:

This film deals with loss and grief of the children's beloved Grandmother. While it isn't likely to cause an issue for most, it may be worth discussing with any child in your class who has gone through their own loss. The discussion questions will relate to this with sensitivity.

Teacher's notes:

Age and stage recommendations, including CfE objectives:

The film is suitable for ages 7+. This pack is aimed at First and Second Level learners. The CfE Experiences and Outcomes the pack will covers is as follows:

Literacy and English: **LIT 1-01a / LIT 2-01a, ENG 1-31a/ ENG 2-31a**

Art and Design: **EXA 1-02a/ 2-02a, 1-03a/ 2-03a, EXA 1-05a / EXA 2-05**

Health and Wellbeing: **WB 1-01a / HWB 2-01a, HWB 1-02a / HWB 2-02a, WB 1-07a / HWB 2-07a**

Technologies: **TCH 1-01a/ 2-02a**

Teacher quote:

I am a firm believer in supporting the mental health of our children in our primary classrooms. Change and loss is something that affects lots of our learners and it can be difficult to support this in a sensitive way suitable to them. Alongside some excellent stories, this film is one which tackles the issue with emotional depth, thoughtful design and is appropriate to young learners. I find film in general an extremely useful tool to encourage discussion of difficult issues, and this film is no exception.



Before watching the film:

Activity 1: **Poster Analysis (Literacy)**

Before watching the film, have a look at the film poster in **Appendix 1**. Discuss what you think the film will be about based on the pictures you see. Bring attention to the monster and the Grandpa flying in the sky.

Activity 2: **Creating a story using Grandma's Recipes (Literacy)**

In the film, Grandma is the family storyteller. Her grandchildren carry on her legacy when she is no longer there to do it. She is very firm with the fact that a good recipe for a story should contain 3 ingredients. No more, no less. Write your own story using your own recipe. You can do this in a number of ways:

- You could swap stories where your partner decides the three items you should write about.
- The whole class can write using the same 3 items, then share your work to see the different things learners come up with. You could use a random object generator to do this.
- You could write it or draw it in a comic strip style.



Activity 3: **Make Your Own Magic Garden Diorama (Art and Design)**

Materials:

Shoeboxes, paper, clay, fabric, leaves, twigs, glue, felt tip pens etc.

Activity:

Children design and build their own “magic garden”, drawing on elements from the film or inventing their own. They can create characters, creatures, and scenes inspired by their stories – just like the kids in the film do when their Grandma’s stories go quiet.

Activity 4: **Animation: Paper Flipbook or Stop-Motion (Technology)**

Materials:

Flipbooks, digital devices (tablets/iPads/Chromebook, etc.), stopmotion app (optional)

Activity:

Learners draw a flipbook animation or use toys/objects to create a short stopmotion video. They can animate a scene from one of their own stories, just like the film shifts styles to tell each tale differently.

Here you can see how to create a flipbook:

<https://www.adobe.com/uk/creativecloud/animation/discover/flipbookanimation.html>



Activity 5: **Grandma's Story Notebook (Health and Wellbeing)**

Each child starts their own “story notebook”, where they write (or draw) stories they think their grandma (or another loved one) might have told – or ones they wish they could share with them. A beautiful way to process loss and celebrate connection. There should be time for children to feedback and share with each other. They can take these home to share with family.







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 amaya.marco@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 amaya.marco@dca.org.uk