DISCOVERY FILM FESTIVAL

Scotland's International Film Festival for Young Audiences



Teachers' Resource Pack: Shorts for Middle Ones: **Mû**

First and Second Levels | Created by Sarah Sturrock

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

DCADundee Contemporary Arts





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/

Мû

Dir: Malin Neumann

Germany, 2023 / 6m25sec

Mû

Synopsis:

A child and her otter-like companion embark on a poetic journey to restore a drying water spring and rescue their hometown from a dire water shortage. $M\hat{u}$ is a non-dialogue short film from Germany.

Teacher's notes:

Age and stage recommendations, including CfE objectives:

This resource pack is aimed at both First and Second Levels. The following CfE Experiences and Outcomes are covered in this pack:

Health & Wellbeing (HWB): HWB 1-01a / HWB 2-01a, HWB 1-05a / HWB 2-05a

Literacy & English: LIT 1-20a / LIT 2-20a, ENG 1-31a / ENG 2-31a, LIT 1-09a / LIT 2-09a

Science: SCN 1-03a / SCN 2-03a, SCN 1-20a / SCN 2-20a

Social Studies: SOC 1-08a / SOC 2-08a, SOC 1-12a / SOC 2-12a

Technologies: TCH 1-04a / TCH 2-04a



Before watching the film:

Activity 1: The Importance of Water (Science)

Before watching the film, discuss in pairs or small groups why you think water is important. Create a list of reasons together. Then, have a look at the Water Cycle. You can research it here:

https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/articles/z3wpp39

If you want, you can also draw and label your own water cycle.

Activity 2: The Importance of Water – Practical Experiment (Science and Technologies)

Practical Science Experiment - Making a simple water filter.

Using the materials here:

https://kids.nationalgeographic.com/books/article/water-wonders

Create and evaluate water filter systems. Think about what works/what doesn't. You could even write a science report from it.

Activity 3: Create Your Own Spirit Creature (Health and Wellbeing)

In $M\hat{u}$, the girl travels with an otter-like companion.

- Discussion If you had a spirit animal friend to help you fix something in the world, what would it be?
- Think about the reasons why that particular creature would work for you is it your favourite animal or an animal that represents the thing you are trying to help?
- Draw your creature, name it and describe its powers.

Extension: write a short story or comic about you and your creature's adventure.

Activity 4: Non-Dialogue Drama (Expressive Arts – Drama)

Explore storytelling through movement and expression. $M\hat{u}$ is a film without dialogue. Act out parts of the film silently (no talking.) Focus on facial expression and body language to show emotion. Use gentle music as background

Afterwards, discuss: "Was it difficult to tell a story without talking? Why/Why not?"

Activity 5: Water Art (Expressive Arts – Art)

Create a piece of artwork showcasing water in nature: springs, rivers, rain lakes, animals drinking, people using water. Use what you came up with in the pre-film task. Add quotes or messages about protecting water (with teacher's help).

Activity 6: What happens next? Story Writing (Literacy)

Discussion: What happens after the girl saves the spring?

Write a short story or draw a comic strip showing the next part of the journey.

Things to think about in writing:

- Does she return home?
- What's different now?
- Do other people need help?

Activity 7: Be a Water Guardian! (Social Studies)

Think about the things you can do which could have an impact on water in the environment. This will connect film themes to real-life action.

Suggestions:

- Brainstorm ways we can save water at school or at home
- Make posters or badges with water-saving tips
- Plant a small garden using a watering schedule to practice water care
- Start a "Water Week" campaign in school



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