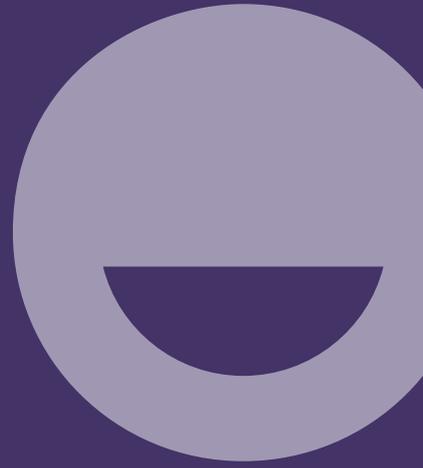


DISCOVERY FILM FESTIVAL

Scotland's International Film Festival
for Young Audiences



Teachers' Resource Pack:
Belle & Sebastian: Next Generation
(Belle & Sébastien: Nouvelle generation)

Second Level | Created by Sarah Sturrock

Discovery Film Festival: Sat 21 October – Sun 5 November 2023

DCA

Dundee Contemporary Arts

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ONE CITY, MANY DISCOVERIES



discoveryfilmfestival.org.uk

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With support from the DCA Cinema and Learning teams



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:

<http://www.discoveryfilmfestival.org.uk/resources>:

Belle & Sebastian: Next Generation
(Belle & Sébastien: Nouvelle generation

Dir: Pierre Coré

France 2022 / 1h36m

French with English subtitles



Belle & Sebastian: Next Generation (Belle & Sébastien: Nouvelle generation)

Synopsis:

Ten-year-old Sebastian is perfectly at home with his urban lifestyle – skateboarding through the parks of Paris with his friends at every available opportunity. So when he is suddenly forced to spend the summer with his aunt and grandmother down in the Pyrenees, and swap his skateboarding for some sheep herding, he is less than thrilled. The scenery may indeed be stunning but the local kids ignore him, the sheep smell awful and the holidays seem endless. And that’s when he meets Belle. Owned by his aunt’s friend, she is a patou, a Pyrenean Mountain Dog, and extremely large and (at first) very unfriendly. But she and Sebastian are about to become firm friends and enjoy the summer of their lives...

Whether or not you are familiar with the books, the TV series and the recent run of films based on their adventures, the Belle and Sebastian stories are a safe and comforting ‘one child and their pet’ narrative, and one which has featured in several Discovery Film Festivals over the years. We’re delighted to be able to present their latest outing, bringing with it some timely questions about the importance of preserving the countryside and the ever-growing threat of climate change. (And for those of you nervous about the fate of the dog, let’s just say a sequel next year will be perfectly possible...).

Advisory note:

Age 8+ Some mild language, brief moments of animal cruelty (off-screen), smoking, wolves attacking sheep/Belle.

Teacher's notes:

This resource looks at film literacy, through listening and talking and the understanding of character. (LIT 2-04a) Persuasive writing through animal cruelty. (LIT 2-29a) It also looks at the impact of land development (SOC 2-08b).

As a teacher, I believe this film would be perfect for upper primary. There are some brief moments of animal cruelty (off-screen) which may be slightly upsetting but it is important for children to discuss real world issues, you know your class the best so if there are any children who you think may find this particularly disturbing, maybe just discuss this with them prior to the visit or ensure they are seated with an adult.

It discusses plenty of real-world issues which gives students exposure to other cultures and problems. A lot of learners could probably relate to Sebastian at the beginning of the film so it gives them the chance to put themselves in the shoes of the main protagonist. In my classroom, I love using film as a stimulus for learning experiences and this film would be no different, as it links to many Es and Os within the curriculum.

Before watching the film

Look at the poster (**Appendix 1**) and discuss in partners what you can see in the poster.

In groups/ whole class, make a list of predictions based on the poster for what you think is going to happen in the film. Come back and revisit your list after seeing the film.



After watching the film

Discussion Points

- One of the important themes of the film is about family relationships. When Sébastien first went to stay with his grandmother what was their relationship like? How did this change over the course of the film? What do you think the cause of this change was?
- In what ways did Sébastien have to adapt to a new lifestyle when he went to stay with his grandmother and aunt? Do you think you would find a change like that easy or difficult? Why?
- In what ways does Sébastien stand up for what is right? Why is this important?

Appendix 1: Before the Film – Poster



