

DISCOVERY FILM FESTIVAL

Scotland's International Film Festival
for Young Audiences

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Teachers' Resource Pack: **Porcelain**

First level | Created by Courtney McConnell

Discovery Film Festival | Mon 2 – Wed 18 November 2026

DCA

Dundee Contemporary Arts

DUNDEE
ONE CITY, MANY DISCOVERIES

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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/>

Porcelain

Dir: Grace Kwok

Singapore, 2025 / 2m



Porcelain

Synopsis:

Porcelain is a 2D animated sequence that follows a porcelain dog's chase for its ball through a pottery shelf. Weaving through each piece, a visual adventure unfolds as illustrations come to life, exploring the different styles of pottery. Through its journey, *Porcelain* celebrates transformation, adventure, and brings forward the delicate beauty of ceramics.

Advisory note:

This film is appropriate for all ages. The little dog falls from the shelf and breaks which is a bit of a shock. The dog is gently repaired again.

Teacher's notes:

Age and stage recommendations, including CfE objectives:

This film is appropriate for ages 3 and up and recommended for P2-P4 pupils. This pack is aimed at First Level. The following CfE Experiences and Outcomes are covered in this pack:

Literacy: **LIT 0-01c, LIT 1-20a, LIT 1-09a, LIT 1-11a**

English: **ENG 0-03a, ENG 1-31a**

Expressive Arts: **EXA 1-03a, EXA 0-05a, EXA 1-05a, EXA 2-05a**

Technology: **TCH 1-02a**

Teacher quote:

This precious film explores humanity and the beauty of life. A creator, the pottery, and its relationship with its creations. This film explores further themes; imagination, exploration, companionship, frailties and restoration. Within the precious 'short' there is no dialogue, so it lends the audience an opportunity to interpret freely while being introduced visually to the Japanese art called Kintsugi.

Kintsugi is the Japanese art of putting broken pottery pieces back together with gold – built on the idea that in embracing flaws and imperfections, you can create an even stronger, more beautiful piece of art. Every break is unique and instead of repairing an item like new, the 400-year-old technique that highlights the “scars” as a part of the design.

Using this as a metaphor for healing ourselves teaches us an important lesson: Sometimes in the process of repairing things that have broken, we create something more unique, beautiful and resilient.

“*Porcelain* is a gorgeous ‘short film’ of art, exploring the beauty of life and its opportunity for transformation and hope.” – Mrs Courtney McConnell



Before watching the film:

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

LI: Use prediction and inference to interpret visual information from a film poster.

SC: I can identify details from a poster.

I can make predictions using visual evidence.

I can infer meaning from colours, shapes and symbols.

I can explain my thinking using evidence from the poster.

PART A: Observations

Look closely at the poster in **Appendix 1**

(Pair and share) Discuss at least five observations.

PART B: Prediction and Inference

Answer the following questions using evidence from the poster.

Based on the title, *Porcelain*, and the images on the poster.

- What do you think the short film will be about?

The poster mainly shows ceramic objects instead of people.

- Why do you think the filmmaker chose to do this?
- Why do you think the dog might be important to the story?
- What clues helped you make your prediction?

The poster uses only a few colours (mainly blue and white).

- What mood or feeling do these colours create? Explain your answer.

PART C: Compare and Contrast

Think about: Colour, material, shape, size, height, width, handles, decorations

- What is similar about the objects?
- What is different about the objects?



Activity 2: **Meet the Dog**

LI: Explore the characteristics of the dog in the Poster.

SC: I can determine the breed of the dog (use inference and author)
I can read about the dog's characteristic traits and examine accuracy to the film.
I can create a fact file about this dog breed.

TASK: Meet the Dog

Look carefully at the dog in the centre of the poster.

- Why do you think the dog is the only object with detailed patterns?
- Where do you think the dog is from?
- Do you know what type (breed) of dog it is?
- What clues helped you decide?
- How could you figure out what type of dog this is?

Differentiated activities for various levels:

Option 1: For younger pupils

Use the information, images and questions included below.

OR:

Option 2:

Use a computer or books for the class to use ICT skills to research Asian Dogs Breeds to determine the correct dog and create a fact file or information brochure about the dog.

Option 1:

Look carefully at the dog in the centre of the poster.

- Look at the different dog breeds in **Appendix 2**.
- Which Asian dog resembles the dog in the short, *Porcelain*?
- What clues helped you to determine this?

Activity 3: **Shiba Inu Breed (Literacy)**

Read the text about the Shiba Inu dog breed **Appendix 3** and ask pupils to use what they've learned for the following activities.

Option 1: For younger pupils

Create an animal fact file using the activity sheet in **Appendix 4**.

Option 2:

Answer the following questions:

1. What does the word adaptability mean in the text?
 - A. Being able to change and live successfully in different environments.
 - B. Running very fast.
 - C. Having a thick coat.
 - D. Being difficult to train.
2. What does the phrase positive reinforcement most likely mean?
 - A. Punishing a dog when it behaves badly.
 - B. Rewarding a dog for good behaviour.
 - C. Ignoring a dog's behaviour.
 - D. Letting the dog do whatever it wants.
3. List three physical features that make the Shiba Inu easy to recognise.
4. According to the text, list two things a Shiba Inu needs to stay healthy and happy?
5. Why do you think the Shiba Inu is described as a good choice for people living in flats and apartments?

Use evidence from the text to explain your answer:

6. The text says that Shiba Inus are independent and strong-willed.
What challenges might a first-time dog owner face?
7. Why is patience and consistency important when training a Shiba Inu?
8. Explain why grooming a Shiba Inu is considered relatively low maintenance.
9. The author refers to the Shiba Inu as "The Darling of Singapore."
Why do you think the author chose this nickname?
10. Would you recommend a Shiba Inu as a family pet? Explain your answer using at least three pieces of evidence from the text.



Activity 4: **Film Writing (Literacy)**

LI: Write a recount.

SC: I can understand and retell the visual story.

I can write a recount.

I can choose to write a story for the film.

I can write dialogue or a caption for a still.

TASK: To write a recount

Differentiated activities for various levels:

Option 1:

Watch *Porcelain* again.

Write the key elements of the story into the 3 sections/paragraphs.

1. Orientation (when, where, who)
2. Complication (problem, plot)
3. Resolution (resolution)

Write these three sections into three paragraphs.

Include conjunctions and transition words.

Option 2:

Watch *Porcelain* again.

Write dialogue for a still.

Option 3:

Watch *Porcelain* again.

Write a caption for a still.



Activity 5: **The Art of Kintsugi**

LI: Explore the themes of imagination, transformation and restoration.

LI: Explore the Japanese art called Kintsugi.

SC: I can discuss in pairs how imagination is used in the story.

I can use creating skills to draw another journey for the dog and ball.

I can discuss the transformation of objects.

I can discuss the importance of restoration for an object and human.

I can discuss the procedure and philosophy of Kintsugi, which is the art of repairing broken pottery.

Starter Questions:

- Have you broken anything?
- Did you fix it?
- Why would you fix certain broken items?
- Do you think items should look new if fixed or retain the appearance of restoration.
- Show a clip from the Repair Shop. (optional)

Discussion Questions:

- What is the setting of the film.
- What did you feel when the dog fell and broke?
- What happened next to the dog?
- What do you think about the appearance of the dog after he fell?
- What did you think was going to happen to the dog next?
- What does the film want you to infer is happening at the end of the film?
- What did you notice about the jars and bowls at the end of the film?

Appendix 1: Poster



Appendix 2: Dog Breeds



Appendix 3: Shiba Inu Breed



The Shiba Inu, often lovingly referred to as "The Darling of Singapore," for its compact size and captivating fox-like appearance. The Shiba Inu has become an iconic breed in Singapore's dog-loving community. Their striking looks, characterized by erect triangular ears, almond-shaped eyes, and a curled tail, make them a sight to behold.

Shiba Inus have a spirited personality. They are known for their independence, intelligence, and self-assuredness. Despite their dynamic nature, Shiba Inus are loyal and affectionate with their families, forming strong bonds that last a lifetime. Their adaptability to various living situations (flats, duplexes or homes) in the heart of Singapore, has made them an ideal choice for singles and families.

Shiba Inus are known for their strong-willed nature, which can present challenges in training. However, with patience, consistency and positive reinforcement, they can become trained and responsive to commands. Families must be prepared for the breed's energy levels and exercise needs with regular walking, playtime and mental stimulation. Grooming is relatively low maintenance, with their dense double coat and only requires an occasional brushing.

Appendix 4: Animal Fact File



Animal Fact File

Name:

Picture:

Description:

Habitat:

Diet:

Other Interesting Facts:



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**