



Welcome Students, Volunteers and Teachers!!

The following pages offer film synopsis, teaching suggestions and online teaching guides. We believe that you will find them helpful for both pre and post-viewing.

Teachers Please Note:

1. No backpacks are allowed in the theatres.
2. Please check our new website at [www.reframefilmfestival.ca/reel.html](http://www.reframefilmfestival.ca/reel.html). The guide, poster and all the other important information related to the festival can be found there.
3. Both theatres, Market Hall and Showplace, have wheelchair access. Please notify [reelkidsfilmfestival@gmail.com](mailto:reelkidsfilmfestival@gmail.com) if you need the elevator at Market Hall.
4. We would appreciate your input regarding the REELKids Film Festival. Your comments help us to develop a quality programme for students. Please e-mail us at [reelkidsfilmfestival@gmail.com](mailto:reelkidsfilmfestival@gmail.com).
5. Each programme is approximately two hours in length. Although we know in some situations it is unavoidable, it is disruptive to others when children need to use the washroom. Please monitor this closely.
6. Payment is due upon receipt of invoice. Your invoice will be e-mailed to you upon confirmation. Please check your inbox.

On behalf of the REELKids Film Festival organizing committee we'd like to acknowledge Sprockets International Film Festival, Flicks International Film Festival for Youth and Viewfinders. We have used bits from their Teachers Guide to help us in compiling ours.

[www.reframefilmfestival.ca/reel.html](http://www.reframefilmfestival.ca/reel.html)

**Thanks!** Judy, Arlene, Wanda and Krista  
REELKids Film Festival Planning Committee

## The Benefits of Exposing Children to Film & Video

*“Film is the 20th century’s most unique and dominant art form and the one most capable of reaching and influencing large audiences around the world. It is vital that young audiences have the opportunity to view the richest expressions of what is perhaps our most democratic and powerful art form. At a time in which mainstream films too often reflect growing intolerance, numbed emotion and incomprehensible violence. Events such as [children’s film festivals] help remind all of us that the world is liveably beautiful. Stories and images reflecting the experiences of children, teenagers and young adults from other countries and cultures prove that films can challenge, enrich, inform and entertain. [Children’s film festivals], like all other cultural events that help shape the sensibilities of young audiences, are incalculable in their importance. They help renew and redeem an art form by ensuring that the audiences of the future are aware of its immense potential.”*

– James Quandt, Senior Programmer, Cinematheque Ontario

Popularity in film, as with everything else, is not always synonymous with quality. In order to become discriminating, discerning viewers, young audiences need tools to help make them more perceptive of what they are viewing. Students need to observe critically, to analyze, and to evaluate what they are watching.

## Why is film study important?

- ✓ Young people watch more film than any other age group, whether on television, video rentals, or at the theatre.
- ✓ Film is the 21st century’s most unique, dominant and popular art form.
- ✓ It is the medium most capable of reaching and influencing large audiences.

## REELkids Film Festival & Study Guide

- ✓ helps students appreciate the creativity and complexity of this art form.
- ✓ makes students aware of the influential power of film.
- ✓ Teaches students how to examine, analyze and evaluate, making them wiser consumers – a skill that can be transferred to all aspects of our lives.
- ✓ assists students in gaining appreciation of international films.
- ✓ exposes students to a variety of animation techniques.
- ✓ helps students develop a deeper understanding of filmmaking.

## Previewing Ideas for Teachers

1. Identify and discuss **MEDIA CONVENTIONS AND TECHNIQUES** such as: animation/live action, use of music, camera angles, sounds effects, dialogue/no dialogue, genre (comedy, drama, documentary). Why would a filmmaker choose a particular technique or convention? How does it help to convey a certain idea or mood? Introduce and ensure students understand how film presents the passage of time.

**Note:** We encourage you to visit the media literacy website <http://www.think@justthink.org>

Here are a few additional ideas from this website:

Who made this message?

Who might it benefit or harm?

What kind of actions might I take in response to this message?

What is this about?

What techniques are used to create this message?

Where was this made?

Is this fact, opinion or something else?

2. **Identify and explore the SETTING of each film.** Locate it on a map/globe. Discuss climate, geographical features, agriculture, economy, language and culture, dialects and accents, and historical time. Compare and contrast the setting in the film to the setting in present day Ontario.
3. **LITERATURE GENRES:** Identify the characteristics of a variety of genres: folktales, legends, realistic fiction, documentary/nonfiction. If a film is an adaptation from a book, compare and contrast the print and film versions?
4. Provide students with the title, setting and characters as described in the synopsis. Have students write or discuss orally what they think the film will be about? Write **PREDICTIONS**. Allow the students to share and compare the predictions before viewing and then again after you view the film at the festival.
5. **POINT OF VIEW:** Discuss what point of view is? Use examples to discuss the following: whose perspective is presented? What was the artists purpose in using that perspective? Are there multiple or singular points of views? Is a point a view missing? Is their bias? Discuss how a story changes when the point of view changes.
6. Introduce the concept of **ADAPTATION** for International Viewing: subtitles, dubbing.
7. **DECISION MAKING:** Discuss choices in life: the importance of making good choices, consequences for the future and what affects the choices that we make i.e. religion, economics, family values.
8. **CHARACTER EDUCATION/COMMUNITY VALUES:** Discuss the themes: responsibility, interpersonal relations (bullying), problem solving, perseverance, respect, tolerance, gratitude.

9. **MAIN IDEA** Ensure students understand the concept of “main idea”. Using the film list, assign one specific film to a small group of students or individual. Ask the group/student to watch their film with the “main idea” in mind, reporting back to the class about the “main idea” after the festival.
10. **CULTURAL DIVERSITY and HISTORY**: Many of the films in the festival display the rich diversity in culture and history of people, not only in Canada, but also around the world. Discuss the contributions made by culturally diverse groups throughout history so that children recognize, respect and acknowledge these contributions to the global community.
11. **ANIMATION** is an important component the Ontario Language Curriculum- Media Literacy. Learn more about animation here:

<http://www.oscars.org/education-outreach/teachersguide/animation/download.html>

[http://www3.nfb.ca/animation/objanim/en/chanima/parents\\_profes.php](http://www3.nfb.ca/animation/objanim/en/chanima/parents_profes.php)

12. **TEACHING GUIDES** are available on the internet for some of the films. Please read the film descriptions to see if there is a teaching guide.

**Note:**

- \* **Please note this is not necessarily the order in which the films will be screened.**
- \* **Be advised that changes to the programming may occur due to unforeseen technical difficulties.**

## Film Descriptions by Grade

### Grades 1-3

#### INTERNATIONAL SHORTS PROGRAM

note: The following films are all animations, which is an important component the Ontario Language Curriculum- Media Literacy: *Elephants*, *The Flax*, *Rindin the Puffer*, *Coyote and Tortoise*, *Hooked*, *The New Specis*, *Because You're Gorgeous*, *The New Adventures of Jack and Pedro*, *The Plastic Perils of the Pacific*, *I'm Here*

Learn more about animation here:

<http://www.oscars.org/education-outreach/teachersguide/animation/download.html>  
[http://www3.nfb.ca/animation/objanim/en/chanima/parents\\_profs.php](http://www3.nfb.ca/animation/objanim/en/chanima/parents_profs.php) :

#### **Elephants**

Director: Sally Pearce  
United Kingdom, 2008 13 min.

Kay Grey is a young girl growing up in an entirely grey house in a totally grey world with very very grey parents. But then her house gets infested with Elephants. They can't be seen against the grey walls, and crash around in the middle of the night, and leaving massive piles of dung in the loo. When Kay corners the elephants, they become friends and she decides to help them.

Awards: Nickel International Film Festival, St John's, Nfld. (Best Animation); Shanghai Film Festival (Most Creative Idea); BAFTA CYMRU (Best Short Film), International Children's Film Festival in Hyderabad, India (Silver Elephant Award for Best Short Film)

#### **The Flax**

Director: Joanna Jasinska Koronkiewicz  
Poland, 2008 13 min.

A metaphorical story about flax, which was sown, then it grew, blossomed, and ripened. After that it was harvested and turned first into linen, next into paper, to be burnt in the end. A tale with a philosophical message of passing.

Awards: International Film Festival for Children and Youth, 2006 (Special Mentions of the Video Official Jury in Animation).

### **Rindin the Puffer**

Directed by: Len Simon  
USA, 2006 8 min.

RINDIN the Puffer is an odd-looking fish, with googly eyes and no chin. He has big buckteeth and a ridiculous grin. But what makes him most different and unique is that when he is frightened he expands like a prickly beach ball. This short adventure story inspires children to be creative, while helping them to recognize the value of tolerance and getting along. Bullying, disrespectful treatment, and separateness based on cliques, races, and even gangs have continued to plague schools. Rindin is an opportunity to entertain millions of kids of all ages, while helping them to see their peers in a positive new light.

**Teacher's Guide:** [www.cropond.com](http://www.cropond.com)

### **Coyote and Tortoise**

Director: Len Simon  
USA, 2008 3 min.

Based on the classic fable that recounts the race between a wise tortoise and an arrogant coyote, Coyote and the Tortoise presents a tale of persistence and humility.

Awards: California International Animation Festival (Best Children's Animation).

### **Hooked**

Director: Kristen Williams  
Canada, 2008 2 min.

A salty and irascible old fisherman finds his horizons expanded when a friendly but persistent spider comes to call.

### **The New Species**

Director: Evalds Lacis  
Latvia, 2008 10 min.

An entomologist finds a new species of bug in the meadow and would be glad to add it to his collection. But the bugs don't want to be museum objects - the two bug girls have to find a way to save their parents.

Awards: Cairo International Film Festival for Children (Special Mention From the International Jury).

### **Because You're Gorgeous**

Director: Brent Dawes

South Africa, 2007 5 min.

Warthog takes pride in his lion-esque head of hair. He struts around boldly until one lock of hair mysteriously springs out of place. This simply will not do, but the stubborn hair refuses to fall back into place. Warthog does everything he can to regain his pristine looks; but the more he tries, the worse it gets.

### **New Adventures with Jack and Pedro**

Directors: Anna Erlandsson and Staffan Erlandsson

Sweden, 2006 8 min.

In this wonderfully amusing film, best friends Jack the snake and Pedro the tortoise adopt a lost baby bird, but the rambunctious nestling soon puts their parenting skills to the test.

### **The Plastic Perils of the Pacific**

Directors: Brandon Strathmann and Carlene Strathmann

USA, 2009 4:03 min.

A short film that with humour tackles the dangers posed by plastic garbage in the open sea. A little crab finds his paradise under assault by the intrusion of a water bottle. He undertakes a fantastic journey through the beautiful realm of a coral reef meeting and helping other sea life along the way. The crab was designed by a four-year-old girl and has a charming children's book quality.

Awards: EarthVision Environmental Film Award for Oceans, Water Quality and Watersheds

**Teacher's Guide:** <http://plasticperils.com/activitybook.pdf>

### **I'm Here**

Director: Peter H. Reynolds

USA, 2008 3 min.

This short film, based on an original story and art by Peter H. Reynolds and produced by FableVision, movingly conveys the loneliness a child with Autism Spectrum Disorder often experiences, and the life-changing effect each of us can have in breaking through that solitude.

<http://www.peterhreynolds.com/art.html>

<http://www.fablevision.com/takeout/flash/index.html>

### **Leon in Wintertime**

Director: Pierre-Luc Granjon  
Canada, 2007 27:12 min.

Wintertime is harsh in the land of King Balthasar, especially if you are Léon, an eight-year-old adopted bear suffering from an identity crisis. "My name's Léon and I'm not a bear!" he insists. After the distraught cub runs away from home, a mischievous storyteller, Bonifacio, sweet-talks him into performing on stage. Along with his good friends the Hedgehog and Hannibal the Elephant, Léon embarks on many adventures, stands up to an ogre, and saves Princess Molly Gingerbread from ending up in a pea stew. Pure, tender and as sweet as honey, this puppet animation is a delightful medieval tale.

Awards: Reel 2 Real Festival (Best Animation); Gemini Awards (Best Direction, Animated Program or Series); International Animation Festival (Best Short Animation for Children).

Teacher's Guide: <http://www.onf-nfb.gc.ca/sg/100547.pdf>

### **GRADES 1-3 FEATURE FILM**

#### **Stella and the Star of the Orient / Stella und der Stern des Orients**

Director: Erna Schmidt  
Germany, 90 mins, 2007 90 mins  
German with English subtitles

Subtitles will be read aloud during this screening

Ten year-old Stella steps into an old wardrobe and naturally enough steps out 100 years earlier! Stella comes face to face with her own great-grandmother Clementine when she was Stella's age. Clementine and her brother Gustav go with her on a wild adventure. The three new friends quickly discover that the family home might be sold off. And so begins a race against time: they must find the lost treasure to save their home and they must get Stella back to the present day - otherwise she might never exist in the first place.

Winner Best of Fest Award, Chicago International Children's Film Festival.

Teacher's Guide on Sprockets website:

<http://reellearning.ca/docs/Stella%20and%20The%20Star%20of%20the%20Orient%20Teacher%20Resource.pdf>

## Grades 4-6

### GRADES 4-6 INTERNATIONAL SHORTS

#### **Filiz in Flight**

Director: Sylke Rene Meyer  
Germany, 2006 14:30 min.

Nine-year-old Filiz goes to the Thuringia Forest for holidays. Her cousin Cem welcomes her at the railway station. Filiz likes to roam through the forest on a bike with Cem, but is uncomfortable around Melanie, a local girl who finds pleasure in mobbing newcomers. One day Filiz has a strange vision in the woods: alien like creatures climbing a hill. They are ski jumpers in their summer training. Now all Filiz wants to do now is ski jumping -- it's like flying. Cem puts a damper on her enthusiasm: ski jumping is for men only, not for girls. But then Melanie, of all people, helps Filiz's dream come true.

Awards: Giffoni Film Festival 2007, European Broadcast Union Silver Gryphon (best film).

#### **Moustafa's Secret (Le Secret de Moustafa)**

Directed by: Joline Robichaud  
Canada, 2008 11:30 min.

Moustafa is on a long journey in the desert. Hidden on his cart is a mysterious object that seems to be at the centre of his quest. It's precious enough for him to undergo all sorts of dangers, including thirst and ghosts. A classic tale blending mystery and humour.

#### **Jabbawaki**

Director: Sean Conly  
Canada, 2009 11 min

In this imaginative animation, Jabbawaki, a monster with a fondness for frightening humans, falls in love. To prove his adoration, he embarks on a trip far into the wild, discovering magical lands and meeting mythical creatures that teach him no journey is just a destination.

Awards: Columbus International Film Festival (Chris Statuette), Sprockets (Audience Choice, Best Animated Film), The Accolade Film Awards (Award for Excellence), Worldfest Film Festival (Special Jury Remi award), Amazing Spotlight (Second Quarter Winner).

### **A Pickle**

Director: Karen Nielsen  
Canada, 2008 13 min.

Eleven-year-old Charlie follows a wayward baseball into an old house and finds Mack, an old man whom time forgot. Together, they embark on a journey of friendship, which leads to the ultimate pickle for Charlie.

Awards: Best of Reel to Real International Film Festival for Youth BC Award 2009.

### **Kick Like a Girl**

Director: Jenny Mackenzie  
USA, 2008 25 min.

The story of what happens when "The Mighty Cheetahs," an undefeated Third Grade girls' soccer team, competes in the boys' division. With humour and honesty, this documentary reveals the reality of the boy-girl issues and what "Kick Like A Girl" really means on and off the playing field.

Awards: Danville International Children's Film Festival (Best Short Film); Newport International Film Festival (Best Children's Short).

### **His Good Will**

Director: Cayman Grant  
Canada, 2008 11:19 min.

A touching story set in 1950 about a young boy struggling against poverty in a small town, and how his innocence and optimism, in the simplest of ways, touch those around him.

Awards: Official Entry, Academy Awards 2008 (Live Action Short Film); 5th Annual NYC Downtown Short Film Festival 2009 (Best Cinematography and an Honorable Mention for best Film Overall), Reel 2 Real Film Festival (Most Inspirational Short Film).

### **Wings of Epoh**

Director: Peter H. Reynolds  
USA, 2008 8 min.

Written by famed Holocaust survivor and author, Gerda Weissmann Klein, and lovingly illustrated by Peter H. Reynolds, "Wings of Epoh" tells the amazing story of an autistic boy who takes a journey with an unlikely friend, a butterfly named Epoh (hope spelled backward). A teacher from Nebraska writes about her experience with the video, "Wings of Epoh."

**Teacher's Guide:** <http://www.fablevision.com/wingsofepoh/>  
for purchase only

### **Because You're Gorgeous**

Director: Brent Dawes

South Africa, 2007 5 min

Warthog takes pride in his lion-esque head of hair. He struts around boldly until one lock of hair mysteriously springs out of place. Warthog does everything he can to regain his pristine looks; but the more he tries, the worse it gets.

### **Swing**

Director: Dawn Tuffery

New Zealand, 2007 6 min

As a small creature swings through the trees, alien property developers go to work. Everyone finds out about the soil stabilizing properties of trees the hard way.

## **GRADES 4-6 FEATURE FILM**

### **King Siri**

Director: Somaratne Dissanayake

Sri Lanka, 2008 88 min.

Sirimal is a gifted eleven-year-old boy from a small Sri Lankan village who enjoys his rural life and appreciates the traditions and cultural values instilled in him by his parents. But his talents and intelligence have won him a scholarship to attend a prestigious school in the capital city of Colombo. Trading in bare feet for shoes and blisters, Sirimal reluctantly sets off for his new surroundings. Coming from a poor rural family, he has difficulty at first adjusting to an urban world among the school's well-to-do boys.

A wonderfully moving tale that audiences will relate to, King Siri addresses the prejudice and power dynamics stemming from socio-economic class difference, and looks at the importance of having a connection to your land and culture.

Teacher's Guide: <http://reellearning.ca/docs/King%20Siri%20Teacher%20Resource.pdf>

## Grades 7-8

### GRADES 7-8 INTERNATIONAL SHORTS

#### **Varmints**

Director Marc Craste

UK, 2008 24 min.

In the face of overwhelming urbanization, indifference, and recklessness, a small creature struggles to preserve a remnant of the peace he once knew. His selfless acts of love plant the seeds of change that will ultimately prove the salvation of his world. But at what cost to himself?

Note: Based on the award-winning book of the same name by Helen Ward and illustrated by Marc Craste.

Awards: Nominated for a FAFTA; shortlisted for an Academy Award.

#### **Sleeping Betty**

Director: Claude Cloutier

Canada, 2007 9:13 min.

In this animated short, Betty is stuck in bed, victim of a strange bout of narcolepsy. The King calls on his subjects to rescue her and they all respond to the call: Uncle Henry VIII, Aunt Victoria, an oddly emotional alien, a funky witch, and a handsome prince. But will a kiss really be enough to wake the sleeping princess?

Awards: Stuttgart Festival of Animated Film (Audience Award); Jutra award winner (Best Animation); Cartoons on the Bay, Positano, Italy (Special Mention for Best Animation).

#### **Amma**

Director: Aparna Kapur

Canada, 2008 5:21 min.

A story about a little girl and her deeply rooted relationship with her grandmother.

Awards: Montreal World Film Festival (Honorable Mention)  
San Francisco Frozen Film Festival (Best Animation); REEL2REAL (Most Innovative Film).

### **The Burrowing Owl**

Director: Mike Roush  
USA, 2008 6 min.

A story of love and survival as seen through the lens of a wildlife documentary. We meet the Burrowing Owl, who has recently lost his mate to a large predator that is hunting in his neck of the woods. How will he survive in this dangerous wilderness alone?

### **Immersion**

Director: Richard Levien  
USA, 2009 13 min.

Ten-year-old Moises has just immigrated to California from Mexico. Although he doesn't speak English, he studies hard and is a whiz at math, so he hopes to do well on his first test. But rules and apathy conspire against his success.

### **Icewind**

Director: Christoph Silber  
Germany, 2007 8 min.

Two young girls play games to comfort and protect themselves from the politics of war in Nazi Germany.

### **Ali and the Ball**

Director: Alex Homes  
Australia, 2008 15 min.

Ali is eight years old and lives with his mother in a refugee detention centre. Life is hard for the inmates and Ali's main concern in life is to look after his mother. When her prized knitting needles -- her most treasured material possessions -- are confiscated, Ali takes it upon his shoulders to get them back.

Awards: Sydney Film Festival 2008 (Dendy Award for Short Fiction).

### **Jungle Beat: You Don't Bring Me Flowers**

Director: Brent Dawes  
South Africa, 2008 5 min.

A spritely Springbok goes to exhaustive lengths to impress the gazelle of his dreams.

### **Swing**

Director: Dawn Tuffery  
New Zealand, 2009 6:11 min.

Far away in unstable fantasy landscape, one small creature likes to swing in trees by a determined property developer appears with other with other ideas. As the trees disappear and the ground crumbles, the creature searches worriedly for a place to swing.

### **The Best Kept Secret**

Director: Patricia Ferreira  
Spain, 2003 18 min.

Ravi is a handsome nine-year-old Indian boy; he alone is responsible for earning a living for himself, his sister and his grandfather. For this reason he gets up every morning before sunrise to earn the money the family of three need to survive. After his morning stint, Ravi sets off for school – although he’s usually far too tired to concentrate on his lessons. In class he sits all alone at his own table; gradually we realise why he is being discriminated against in this way, namely, his mother’s death – allegedly of an AIDS-related infection – years ago. But Ravi has no time for tears – for he must look after his sister and his grandfather.

### **Hooked**

Director: Kristen Williams  
Canada, 2008 2 min.

A salty and irascible old fisherman finds his horizons expanded when a friendly but persistent spider comes to call.

## **GRADES 7-8 ISSUES TO ACTION**

### **Ali and the Ball**

Director: Alex Homes  
Australia, 2008 15 min.

Ali is eight years old and lives with his mother in a refugee detention centre. Life is hard for the inmates and Ali's main concern in life is to look after his mother. When her prized knitting needles -- her most treasured material possessions -- are confiscated, Ali takes it upon his shoulders to get them back. Gradually Ali befriends a young girl on the other side of the razor-wire fence and, with her help, attempts to make it up to his mother.

Awards: Sydney Film Festival 2008 (Dendy Award for Short Fiction).

### **The Days and the Hours**

Directors: John Haptas and Kristine Samuelson  
USA, 2007 8 min.

At a church in the middle of San Francisco, homeless people are allowed to sleep in the pews in the midst of daily services. Filling row after row, over a hundred exhausted men and women find relief from the elements. This documentary includes the voices of homeless people who describe their lives before they slipped off the tracks. The Days and the Hours is a haiku that gives viewers a window into sanctuary.

Awards: Black Maria Film Festival (First Prize: Jurors' Choice); Mendocino Film Festival (Best Short Documentary).

### **I Want to be a Pilot**

Director: Diego Quemada-Diez  
Kenya, 2006 12 min.

Omondi, a twelve-year-old boy living in a Kenyan slum, one of 15 million sub-Saharan African children orphaned by poverty and AIDS.

Awards: Los Angeles (Winner Audience Award for Best Short); Sao Paulo Film Festival (Audience Award for Best Short, 2006) International Film Festival (Brazil) (Audience Award for Best Short and Crystal Heart Award)  
Rimouski International Film Festival (Humanitas Camerio Award)

**Explore Speeches by Ghandi, Mandela, King on poverty here:**

<http://iwantobeapilot.com/>

### **Moving Windmills**

Director: Scott Thrift

United States/Malawi, 2008 7 min.

In late 2006 a Malawi newspaper wrote about William Kamkwamba, a remarkable young man from a remote rural village north of the capital city. Forced to drop out of high school for lack of money, William saw a picture of a windmill in a textbook and decided to build one to power his family's home. Using found materials and scrapyard parts such as a broken bicycle, tractor fan, melted plastic pipes, bamboo, and used copper wires, he built a series of windmills that would change his and his family's lives. A visit to America reinforces his dreams to complete his education and bring power to his country.

Awards: Pangea Day Worldwide Film Festival (Participant Media's North American Filmmaker's Award) details

### **Breakout: Endangered Species, Sustainable Living**

Director: Lalita Krishna

Canada, 2009 10 min. (each)

Sustainable Living: How much energy does your house consume? We'll take you to a house in Ontario that has its own well and recycles water

Biodiversity: Tendekai takes people on a Safari in Tanzania. His mission is to teach young people to respect the environment that animals need to survive in the wild.

#### **Teacher's Guides:**

[www.breakoutonline.ca](http://www.breakoutonline.ca)

<http://reellearning.ca/docs/Breakout%20Teacher%20Resource.pdf>

### **A Different Kind of Gun**

Director: Peter Jordan

Sudan, 2007 15 min.

Filmed inside Sudan, in a camp for people from Darfur and in a remote village in the Nuba Mountains, where children are caught in the crossfire of Sudan's two wars. Told in children's voices and filmed, in part, by their own eyes.

Awards: United Nations (Gold Medal)

**Holiday Sister (Semestersystemen)**

Director: Amanda Kernell  
Sweden, 2008 12 min.

It's the last day of school before summer for 10- year- old Ville and his best friend Niklas. Before they can take this summer's first swim, Ville needs to visit his sister who he claims to be on holidays. But is she really on holiday inside of that grey institution?

Awards: Buff Film Festival Sweden (County Council of Skåne Shortfilm Award)

**Icewind**

Director: Christoph Silber  
Germany, 2007 8 min.

Two young girls play games to comfort and protect themselves from the politics of war in Nazi Germany.

**GRADES 7-8 FEATURE FILM**

**Inside Hana's Suitcase**

Director: Larry Weinstein  
Canada/Czech Republic, 2009 90 min.

The delivery of a battered suitcase to Fumiko Ishioka at the Tokyo Holocaust Museum begins the true-life mystery that became the subject of Karen Levine's best-selling book Hana's Suitcase. The suitcase came from the Auschwitz museum and had Hana Brady's name roughly painted on it. Larry Weinstein's masterful film follows Fumiko's search to discover the details of Hana's life, which leads to the discovery of her brother George in Toronto. As small children they had been incarcerated for being Jewish after the Nazis invaded Czechoslovakia in 1939. A superb musical score by Alexina Louie and Alex Pauk, coupled with dramatic re-enactments stunningly shot by Horst Zeidler, catches us by the heart to invoke the tragedy of the times. The voices of children from Japan, Canada, and the Czech Republic telling Hana's story are woven around the drama, along with George's memories and Fumiko's quest, to create a film of astonishing power and hope.

Explore the history of Hana here: <http://www.hanassuitcase.ca/>

## Indigenous

### INDIGENOUS CANADIAN PROGRAM

#### **Yaani Kukaa**

Directed by Ken Leslie, Haidawood Media Project  
Canada, 2009 6 min.

A spoiled young girl is taken by the wild forest-woman, Yaanii K'uuka and must find a way to escape and make her way back to her parents.

#### **Six Miles Deep**

Directed by Sara Roque  
Canada, 2009 42 min.

On February 28, 2006, members of the Iroquois Confederacy (also known as the Haudenosaunee or People of the Longhouse) blockade a highway near Caledonia, Ontario to prevent a housing development on land that falls within their traditional territories. The ensuing confrontation makes national headlines for months. But less well known is the crucial role played by the clan mothers of the community – the traditional source of power in the Haudenosaunee Nation. Six Miles Deep is an inspiring and compelling portrait of a group of women whose actions have led a cultural reawakening in their traditionally matriarchal community.

#### **How People Got Fire**

Director: Daniel Janke  
Canada, 2008 16 min.

How People Got Fire centres on Grandma Kay (based on elder Kitty Smith) and the connection she forges with the village children through the oral tradition of their culture. Twelve-year-old Tish is one of those children - an introspective, talented girl who feels particularly drawn to Grandma Kay's kitchen. Here, past and present blend, myth and reality meet, and the metaphor of fire infuses all in a location that lies at the heart of the community's spiritual and cultural memory.

#### **Horse**

Archer Pechawis  
Canada, 2009 version 7 min.

What would the Horse Nation have said to us all during the Battle of Little Big Horn, the Sand Creek Massacre, and the Washita River Massacre? This is a story that should be true.

Awards: "Horse" won Best Experimental Short Film at imagineNATIVE.

## INTERNATIONAL INDIGENOUS PROGRAM

### **Hawaiiki**

Director: Mike Jonathan  
New Zealand, 2007  
11 min.

For a young Maori girl, starting school provokes fears about whether others will accept her and her culture.

### **Light Feet, A Raramuri Tale**

Director: Oskar Laffont  
Mexico/UK, 2008 12 min.

Light Feet is the story of Tepo, a Raramuri boy guiding his mother and baby brother through the mountains and to civilization. What are these characters looking for? What are they running away from? Premonitions, dreams, and memories unfold inside this boy's head as he gets closer to the unknown.

Award: 25th Chicago International Children's Film Festival (Liv Ullmann Peace Prize)

## Post Viewing Ideas for Teachers

1. **FOLLOW UP** the previewing discussion topics as they relate to each specific film seen at the festival.
2. **MAKE CONNECTIONS:** for example: film to self, film to film, film to world.
3. **VISUAL ARTS:** work with 2D and 3D representations (e.g. modelling, picture making, mosaics) and animation techniques. Create a flip book.....etc. There are resources on the web:  
<http://www.youthlearn.org/taxonomy/term/29>  
<http://courses.ncssm.edu/gallery/collections/toys/html/exhibit06.htm>  
<http://www.oscars.org/education-outreach/teachersguide/animation/download.html>  
[http://www3.nfb.ca/animation/objanim/en/chanima/parents\\_profes.php](http://www3.nfb.ca/animation/objanim/en/chanima/parents_profes.php)  
<http://www.fablevision.com/takeout/flash/index.html>

4. **WRITTEN LANGUAGE:** retell the story, write a sequel, re-write from a different perspective, create stories and pictures to illustrate: a favourite part, the main idea, a different ending, a connection; write a short play to retell all or a part of the film's story, write letters to the main character, the filmmaker or to advocate for social change; create storyboards.
5. **DRAMA:** Encourage the students to use a variety of dramatic styles: to retell all or part of a film, to convey their reaction/response to a film. Get students to write a short film script.
6. Have a panel discussion or **DEBATE** on an issue that comes from one of the films.
7. **TEACHING GUIDES** are available on the internet for some of the films. Please read the film descriptions to see if there is a teaching guide.
8. Have students email or mail REELkids a **CRITICAL REVIEW** of the program they saw. Email to [reelkids@gmail.com](mailto:reelkids@gmail.com) or mail it to 466 Mark St. Peterborough, ON K9H 1V9
9. Make a **NEWSPAPER** of all the student reviews.