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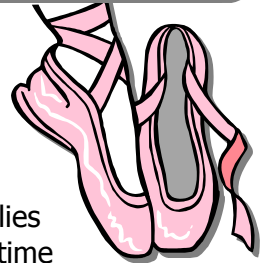
THE YELLOW KITE

L. L. LIVE PRODUCTIONS

2001

Grade Levels: 6-12

24 minutes



DESCRIPTION

A yellow kite travels around the world, helping children solve their own “insurmountable” problems. While the kite is magical, it only acts as a catalyst to inspire children to solve their own problems. Once a problem is solved, the Kite flies off only to appear again when another child is stuck in a problem situation. This time the kite helps a young girl raised in the backwoods by an alcoholic father and an indifferent mother. No narration.

ACADEMIC STANDARDS

Subject Area: Behavioral Studies

- Standard: Understands that interactions among learning, inheritance, and physical development affect human behavior
 - Benchmark: Understands that all behavior is affected by both inheritance and experience
 - Benchmark: Understands that occasionally a single vivid experience will connect two things permanently in people’s minds
 - Benchmark: Understands that differences in the behavior of individuals arise from the interaction of heredity and experience
 - Benchmark: Understands that even instinctive behavior may not develop well if a person is exposed to abnormal conditions
 - Benchmark: Understands that expectations, moods, and prior experiences of human beings can affect how they interpret new perceptions or ideas

INSTRUCTIONAL GOALS

1. To realize that there are options to control one’s own destiny.
2. To illustrate how powerful messages are conveyed through symbols.
3. To demonstrate that problems can be overcome.
4. To interpret the video based on personal perceptions.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

In many instances in question-and-answer, there is a hard rule of right and wrong. Even in the interpretation of literature such as Shakespeare, usually the rule is “the interpretation of the instructor is the guideline by which the student is judged.”

In *The Yellow Kite*, the most important rule is that there is no wrong answer. The comments you hope to receive are entirely subjective, which is the simplicity of this series.

The student must first and foremost be confident in their interpretation of the story. This is important so that they are not simply giving the answer the counselor or instructor wants to hear.

While the imagination of most children is far ranging in the younger years, the educational process can actually lead to a diminishing of the imagination process. This is usually achieved by combination of the processes in which education is administered. There is usually a right answer and a wrong answer to each scenario. It becomes a set pattern for each student to find the right answer. They then regurgitate the answers. It is the goal of *The Yellow Kite* series for the student to give their own opinion freely, which allows the truest information about the child to be revealed. For this to occur, they must first be given permission to think for themselves. *The Yellow Kite* series gives the student permission to do so.


If there is some resistance to meaningful comments on this particular subject, another way to release the student's thoughts would be to talk about other movies first to jump-start the subjective thinking process.

AFTER SHOWING

Discussion Items and Questions

1. What did you think of the movie? Why?
2. What was the kite?
3. What powers did the kite have?
4. Where did the kite go at the end?
5. Who was the girl in the airplane?
6. What was in the box?
7. What best describes the two kids?
8. Why did she have the box under the bed?
9. Was this a happy or sad movie?
10. When the girl danced with kite, what happened?
11. Who was the man/woman?
12. What do you think of them?
13. Who were the two other adults?
14. Why did the two families visit?
15. Discuss behaviors of each adult character.
16. What did you think of the dad? Why?
17. What did you think of the mom? Why?
18. What did you think of Kimmie? Why?
19. What did you think of the kids who broke the kite? Why?
20. Why did the kite enter Kimmie's life?
21. Why did the friend at the beginning run away?
22. Why did Kimmie take the kite to the cabin?
23. Why did the dad get mad at Kimmie?
24. Why was the box kept under the bed?
25. Why were the other kids mean?
26. Why did the mom get mad at the other kids?
27. Why did Kimmie dance with the kite?



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28. Why did the kite leave at the end?
 29. What happened to the dad?
 30. What happened to the mom?
 31. Where was the girl in the airplane going?
 32. What happened to the kids that broke the yellow kite?
 33. At the end of the movie, where did the yellow kite go?
 34. At the end of the movie, how did you feel?
 35. What was the best part of the movie?
 36. What would you like to change in the movie?
 37. What is the moral of the story?
 38. Which of the characters was most like you in this movie? Why?
 39. Which one of the characters would you have as a friend? Why?
 40. What would you do if you had a yellow kite? Why?
 41. Is there a person you know that needs a yellow kite? Is it another child or an adult? What changes could the kite make happen for them?

Applications and Activities

1. What if you were the dad?
 - a. What could I do different?
 - b. What do I think of myself?
 - c. How will I feel when my daughter has grown up?
2. What if you were the mom?
 - a. Is there any other way to behave?
 - b. Do I show enough love to my daughter?
 - c. Who do I support more and why?
3. What if you were one of the two kids?
 - a. When does "having fun" turn into bullying?
 - b. Why do I pick on "Kimmie"?
 - c. Who picks on me?
 - d. Am I the bully or the bullied?
 - e. Is there safety in numbers?
4. Rewrite the ending of this episode.
5. Start a short story and leave the end for the student to finish. (Example: "The Lady or the Tiger.")
6. Give an emotion and allow the student to tell a story to elicit that emotion.
7. Have each student bring their own movie experiences and have them explain the process that brought them to their own emotional response.
8. Show a movie part way through and have the students respond and finish the story.
9. Ask your parents the following:
 - a. What were their dreams were when they were young.
 - b. Which dreams materialized?
 - c. Which ones did they give up on?
 - d. Which ones did they keep?
10. Ask you friends the following:
 - a. What their dreams are.
 - b. How will they make them happen?
11. Share your dreams.

- a. What are your dreams?
- b. Draw a picture of them.
- c. Describe what tools you will need to accomplish them.

SUMMARY

In *The Yellow Kite*, Kimmie, the intent of the message is to bring pathos for the little girl and her lifestyle. In the set up of the story, both parents are portrayed to be unavailable and even a little antagonistic. Kimmie's life is painted as lonely. This is the opportunity for the appearance of the kite. The yellow kite becomes the mystical friend that offers a different perspective and raises her hopes for a better life.

The revealing of the most "human" tendencies of the parents gives them the appearance of ineptness. One wonders if the parents are burdened by their child.

The father is a drinker who always has a beer in his hand. To most people, this is a less available individual. He is a stereotype. He is highly animated in his behavior, which could make him out to be a threatening individual. Some will interpret him differently.

The mother is shown as a very animated person showing more exasperation and less compassion. Although, at one point her aggression is shown for her child and against her perpetrators. Some will interpret her differently.

RELATED RESOURCES



Captioned Media Program

- The Red Balloon #7992



World Wide Web

The following Web sites complement the contents of this guide; they were selected by professionals who have experience in teaching deaf and hard of hearing students. Every effort was made to select accurate, educationally relevant, and "kid safe" sites. However, teachers should preview them before use. The U.S. Department of Education, the National Association of the Deaf, and the Captioned Media Program do not endorse the sites and are not responsible for their content.

- **DEALING WITH FEELINGS**

<http://www.kidshealth.org/kid/feeling/>

Confused, sad, mad, glad? Check out this section to learn about these emotions and many more—and how to deal with them.

- **GIRLS AND BOYS TOWN**

<http://www.girlsandboystown.org/hotline/index.asp>

Call with any problem at any time. Has a TTY number, as well. This Hotline is a 24-hour crisis, resource, and referral line staffed by trained counselors.

