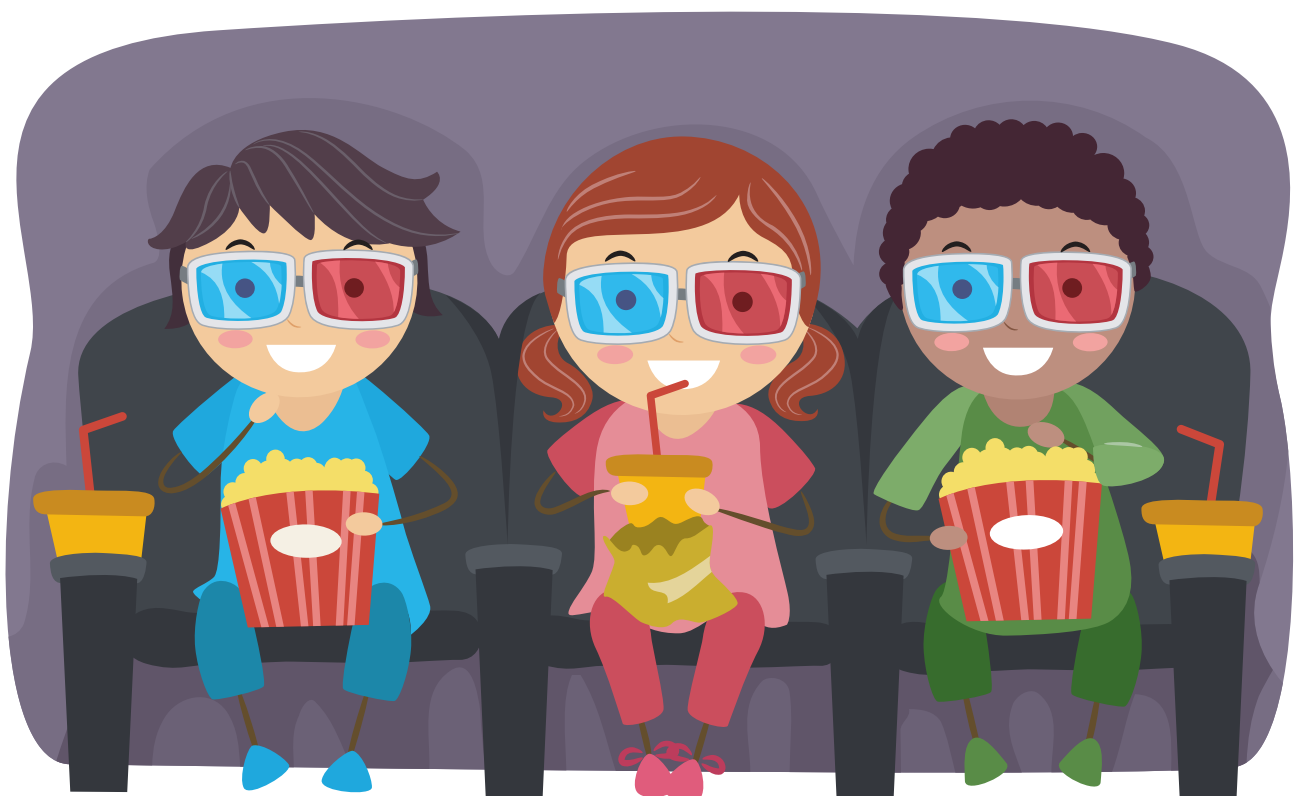




A GOGGLER WORKSHEET

LET'S TALK ABOUT MOVIES

A SERIES OF GUIDED LESSONS FOR
YOU AND YOUR CHILD TO SPEND
QUALITY TIME WATCHING GREAT
MOVIES AND LEARNING TOGETHER.



My Neighbor TOTORO

A QUICK INTRODUCTION TO THE ANIMATED FILMS OF STUDIO GHIBLI

If you're unfamiliar with the movies of Studio Ghibli, the best word we can use to describe them is "quiet". They are very unlike the animated films your children might be used to. They aren't chock-full of gags, their characters don't break out into song at every opportune moment, and there often isn't very much by way of plot. Which is to say that they aren't just saccharine infused treats made to keep your kids occupied and sell more toys. (Though the toys *are* quite adorable.) Neither are they the equivalent of making your children eat their vegetables. The Studio Ghibli movies are charming, whimsical tales told at a leisurely pace. They are artistic and aesthetic masterpieces that defy expectations and stereotypes, often featuring female protagonists with stunning depth and young male characters who are both self-aware and vulnerable.

WHAT IS IT ABOUT?

Two sisters, Satsuki and Mei, move into an old (possibly haunted) house in the Japanese countryside with their professor father sometime after the war. They do so in order to be closer to their mother who is in the hospital with a long-term illness. Soon, they stumble across a friendly forest spirit by the name of 'Totoro' who, along with his magical companions, help the girls whenever they find themselves in need. This is a movie that is so attuned to a child's psychology. Satsuki and Mei aren't called away on some grand quest. They create their own adventure. They play. What's more, their sibling dynamic is also perfectly rendered.

NOTES

The original movie is in Japanese, but in 2004 Disney released a dubbed version with a star-heavy cast, featuring Dakota and Elle Fanning as sisters Satsuki and Mei.

WHY TOTORO?

This movie presents a great opportunity for you to speak to your children about how to manage their emotions. Both Satsuki and Mei experience a range of feelings - fear, anger, anxiety - but on a child's scale. Thus providing a great starting point for such a conversation. Given how the movie is told entirely from the sisters' point of view, it also allows for a conversation with your children about their own goals and concerns.

SUITABLE FOR

Ages 5 and up. This is a great movie for siblings to watch together.



My Neighbor TOTORO

DISCUSSION POINTS

How did the movie make you feel?

What do you think this movie is about?

Who was your favourite character?

Why do you think Mei and Satsuki aren't afraid of Totoro?

Why are the both of them able to befriend these creatures so easily?

Why do you think only the children can see the gremlins, totoros, and Catbus?

What is it about Totoro and Catbus that make them appear like gentle monsters?

Is their family different from ours?

What are some of the beliefs, customs, and traditions practiced by their family?

Do you think the "growing seeds" dance was real or a dream?

How does their mother's sickness affect Mei and Satsuki? Does it affect them in the same way or differently?

What are some of the words you would use to describe Mei and Satsuki?

What is the movie's animation style like?

How is this movie different from the other cartoons you've seen?

IF YOUR KIDS LIKED THIS...

Then they're about to experience a whole new world of animation. The next movie we'd have them watch is [Kiki's Delivery Service](#). And then [Castle in the Sky](#). And after that, we promise you they'll be ones doing the recommending.

IF YOU LIKED THIS...

Besides watching their other movies, we would highly recommend the documentary [The Kingdom of Dreams and Madness](#) (also available on Netflix) which will give you and inside look at the geniuses behind Studio Ghibli: Hayao Miyazaki and Isao Takahata.

For a more in-depth look at the work of Hayao Miyazaki, we also recommend the book [Miyazaki World: A Life in Art](#) by Susan Napier.

My Neighbor TOTORO

WRITE A REVIEW OF THE MOVIE

WHAT IS A
HAIKU?

A HAIKU IS A SHORT POEM FROM JAPAN.
A HAIKU HAS 3 LINES.
THE 1ST LINE MUST BE 5 SYLLABLES.
THE 2ND LINE MUST BE 7 SYLLABLES.
THE 3RD LINE MUST BE 5 SYLLABLES.
THERE CAN BE ANY NUMBER OF WORDS IN EACH LINE.

AN
EXAMPLE
OF A
HAIKU

The sky is so blue

The clouds look like elephants

It makes me happy

CREATE A
HAIKU
ABOUT
FAMILY

My Neighbor TOTORO

CAN YOU DRAW TOTORO?

CAN YOU DRAW CATBUS?