

Benoît

Benoît lives in Joliette, Quebec. Although music is one of his passions, this eleven-year-old proves to have wide ranging interests and keen insight.

Before Screening the Film

Some of these questions could be discussed in a general way:

1. What kind of goals have you set for yourself that demand much selfdiscipline to accomplish? Is it easy for you to fulfill the expectations of others? Can you think of any examples of when you have succeeded? When you feel you have let people down?
2. How do we form first impressions of the people we meet? Are first impressions usually reliable in your opinion? When did you have to change your ideas about someone?
3. Who has made the strongest impression on your life up to this point? In what ways has this person influenced you?
6. When a film is made in a language other than the one we speak, "dubbing" or "subtitling" is necessary. What does dubbing mean? Would you have liked this film dubbed rather than subtitled? What arguments can you present for and against each method?

Related Activities

1. Play happens on many levels in this film. What examples did you notice? Do children play only with kids of their own age? Are there advantages to playing with people of other ages?
2. How does your family play? How would you like your family to play? Is family play a recent occurrence or has it always existed. Is family play different in other cultures?
3. Do some research. Compare family play in pioneer Canada or in traditional Indian or Eskimo cultures with family play in your community today.
4. Benoît plays in an orchestra. The experience of making music together is one we can all share even if you don't play an instrument or can't carry a tune. Obtain a copy of **When Words Sing** by Murray Schafer (Berandol Publishing, Scarborough, Ont.) and discover how you can have an exciting "playing together" experience.

After Screening the Film

Some of these questions could be raised to encourage a discussion:

1. What were your first impressions of Benoît? Did your ideas about him change by the time the film ended? Why or why not?
2. Each of us has a philosophy about life. We decide that certain things – activities, beliefs, and experiences – are more important than others. What things do you think are most important to Benoît?
3. Benoît and Lorraine appear to be good friends. What qualities do you think that Lorraine and Benoît share which probably account for their liking each other?
4. If you were going to give Benoît a record for his birthday, what would you select for him? Why?
5. Benoît plays the violin; he is part of an orchestra. You may be a member of a group effort or team. Describe the satisfaction you get from being part of a whole. How does this compare with achieving something on your own.

Selected Bibliography

Allan, Robert Thomas *The Violin*. McGraw Hill Ryerson.
Paterson, Katherine *Bridge to Terabithia*. Crowell.
Isadora, Rachel *Ben's Trumpet*. Greenwillow.
Viorst, Judith *Rosie and Michael*. Atheneum.

Related Films from NFB

Bing Bang Boom 24 min. 18 sec. b&w 106B 0169 060

The Boy Next Door (Le petit voisin) 18 min. 02 sec.
col. 106C 0362 026

Soap-Box Derby (Les tacots) 21 min. 53 sec.
col. 106C 0174 202

Le violon de Gaston 21 min. 47 sec. col. 106C 0274 165



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