

# THE TALKING EGGS

## The Talking Eggs

A Michael Sporn Production

Themes: Folklore, Dreams, Acceptance, Kindness

Grade Level: PreK – 5; Ages: 4-10

Running Time: 25 minutes

## SUMMARY

Based on a charming Creole folktale, THE TALKING EGGS is a lyrically updated inner-city fable that encourages children to discover their untapped potential and pursue their dreams. When a young girl named Selina befriends an eccentric elderly woman, the result is pure magic. The old woman gives Selina three talking eggs, which turn into wondrous gifts. But when her selfish brother, Wade, enters the woman's shed and steals some eggs, they contain some ugly surprises for him. Selina and Wade learn a magical lesson of friendship and hope.

## OBJECTIVES

After viewing the audience will be able to:

- Discuss how the kindness and courtesy Selina showed the old woman was rewarded, and how the selfishness and disrespect Wade showed was also rewarded;
- Discuss why it is important not to prejudge people based on their appearance;
- Describe how one's attitude or mood can effect the people around you;
- Explain that it's all right to be different; and
- Tell why older people need friends, too.

## BEFORE VIEWING ACTIVITIES

Discuss why it's important to accept others even if they seem different. Have students give examples of times when being nice and helpful to others made them feel good.

## AFTER VIEWING ACTIVITIES

Use these discussion topics, activities, and questions to review the program material.

- What happens to Selina in the story? What happens to Wade?
- Who or what do you think the old woman really was? How did she make magical things happen?
- Why did the old woman give Selina the talking eggs?
- When Selina showed her mother the gifts from the old woman and told her story about the talking eggs, should the mother have sent Wade back for more eggs? Why or why not?
- What did Selina's eggs have in them? What did Wade's eggs have?
- Why did the eggs that Wade took have bad things instead of good things?
- Should you judge people by their appearance? What can you tell from someone's appearance? What can't you tell? Have you ever judged someone, or been judged by your appearance? Was it an accurate judgement?
- Why is it important to treat both strangers and friends with kindness?
- What did Selina learn from the old woman? What have you learned from people who are from different backgrounds? of different ages?
- What does Selina want to be when she grows up? What do you want to be? What will it take to get there? What are you doing now that will help you?
- Have you ever met anyone who surprised you? Who was different from what he or she seemed?

- Draw your own three talking eggs. What would they give you? Draw a picture of their gifts. What would the eggs say?
- Robert D. San Souci has written a more traditional version of this folktale. If possible, read the book and compare it with the film. How is this different or similar? Which do you prefer and why?

## OTHER FILMS IN THE CRITICS' CHOICE COLLECTION AVAILABLE FROM WESTON WOODS INCLUDE:

*Abel's Island* by William Steig

*Five Lionni Classics* by Leo Lionni

*Jazztime*

*The Little Match Girl* by Hans Christian Andersen

*The Marzipan Pig* by Russell Hoban

*The Mouse and the Motorcycle* by Beverly Cleary

*Nightingale* by Hans Christian Andersen

*Ralph S. Mouse* by Beverly Cleary

*The Red Shoes* by Hans Christian Andersen

*Runaway Ralph* by Beverly Cleary

*Stanley and the Dinosaurs* based on the book

*STANLEY* by Syd Hoff

*Uncle Elephant* by Arnold Lobel

*Whitewash* by Michael Sporn

To order other Weston Woods titles visit [www.scholastic.com/westonwoods](http://www.scholastic.com/westonwoods) or call 800-243-5020

This guide may be photocopied for free distribution without restriction