

ARNIE THE DOUGHNUT

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by Laurie Keller

Ages: 5-9

Themes: Friendship, Humor, Conflict Resolution, People-at-work

Running Time: 17 minutes

SUMMARY

Arnie is a deliciously iced and sprinkled doughnut who is shocked to learn that the fate of doughnuts is to be... eaten! Arnie's hilarious and creative ideas to avoid this fate are whimsically captured in this action-packed movie. Children will follow Arnie from his creation in one of the best bakeries in town, to Mr. Bing's home, where he quickly establishes a relationship with his would-be consumer. Arnie and Mr. Bing's solution to their problem will delight students and may even change the fate of doughnuts everywhere....

OBJECTIVES

- Students will learn about characters and characterization.
- Students will discuss friendship.

BEFORE VIEWING ACTIVITIES

Define what a character in a movie or book is. A suggested definition would be: "a person, animal, or object that acts like a person that plays a role in a movie or book." With the class, generate a list of people, animals, and objects that act like animals with which they are familiar from other books and movies that they know. Prepare the students for the movie by encouraging them to remember and/or write down all of the characters that they meet in the movie. This will later be used for a characterization activity.

Give students a writing prompt: "When I woke up this morning, I was a doughnut...." Depending on the students' writing proficiency, have them write creatively on this prompt, or create sequential panels of drawings depicting what they did that day as a doughnut. Tell students that the movie that they are about to see is about a doughnut that has a pretty unusual day. Encourage them to compare their ideas with those in the movie.

If students are less advanced, have them dictate their stories which you can transcribe onto a large sheet of paper. Afterward, encourage them to illustrate it themselves.

AFTER VIEWING ACTIVITIES

Create a list of the characters in the movie in order of importance. Encourage students to discuss/debate the importance level of the characters. Once the characters are listed, teach the students about characterization. Tell them: "We learn about characters by what they do, what they say, and what others say about them." Use these three categories to characterize Arnie and discuss what type of character he is. Do the same for Mr. Bing. This activity can be extended to understand the characters from other books and movies that the class has shared.

Discuss the relationship between Arnie and Mr. Bing using the information that the class recorded for characterization. Make a list of the ways that Arnie and Mr. Bing are good friends to each other. Then, have students create their own pet doughnuts. Bring in a box of plain doughnuts and different types of materials for decorating them.

Students will quickly understand Mr. Bing's difficulty in not eating Arnie! Have the students keep the pet doughnuts for one or two days, then have a wrap-up discussion where they compare and contrast their pet doughnuts with Arnie.

If possible arrange for a visit with your students to a local bakery. While at the bakery have students interview the baker about his/her cooking techniques. Once your students return to the classroom, have them compare and contrast these techniques with those used by the baker in the book.

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