



Ludovic

Magic in the Air




It's autumn in all its glory and Ludovic is playing in the park. When an older teddy bear approaches, Ludovic is overjoyed at finding a playmate, but the bigger bear knocks him down and runs away. Poor Ludovic is finally rescued by a little girl teddy bear whose kindness transforms his world. Ludovic's heart is filled with joy as

he leaves the park only to meet up again with the bully. "He looks sad," thinks the little bear and generously lends him his brand new kite. The bully is bowled over. The magic is still working. What a fantastical day it's been!

This tender tale by Co Hoedeman is about the wonders of friendship. Daniel Lavoie's music enhances the images and imparts a magical quality. **Ludovic: Magic in the Air** is part of a quartet of films entitled **Four Seasons in the Life of Ludovic**. This charming collection of stories, all told through puppet animation, will delight children between 3 and 6.

Director: Co Hoedeman
Producer: Jean-Jacques Leduc

12 minutes, 15 seconds
Order number C9101 190

 Closed captioned. A decoder is required.

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www.nfbkids.ca/ludovic

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Printed in Canada



Four Seasons in the Life of

Ludovic

Magic in the Air

Ludovic
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VHS

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A National Film Board of Canada Production

Ludovic

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playground, but also the fun in the film and the friendships that sprang up among the other young bears. Ask the children which of the bears is their favourite and why.

2. Talk about the "magic leaf" that Ludovic's new friend found (the girl bear in pink). She used it to make a tunnel into the sand pile. Have the students imagine that they had such a magic leaf. Where

would they go? What kinds of adventures might they have? Encourage humorous and imaginative responses that they can then illustrate.

3. This is an excellent opportunity to talk about bullying. First, define bullying behaviour: the repeated intimidation of another person, often someone who is smaller, weaker or "different" from the bully. Excessive teasing, threats, violence, mean gossip, put-downs and the like give the bully a sense of power and control. Use the bully bear in the film as an example, and engage the children in a discussion about how they would handle such behaviour if it were directed at themselves or at a classmate.

RELATED NFB VIDEOS FOR YOUNG CHILDREN

Ludovic: A Snow Gift: It's winter and Ludovic must play indoors, so he invents magical games with a doll who miraculously comes to life. (14 min)

Ludovic: A Crocodile in My Garden: Spring blossoms and with it Ludovic's imagination, as he brings a menagerie of paper animals to life. (10 min)

Ludovic: Visiting Grandpa: Over the summer holidays, the closeness and understanding between Ludovic and his grandfather grow as the two learn to accept the death of the beloved grandmother. (12 min)

Bully Dance: In this animated tale, a community deals with a bully who is victimizing a smaller member of the group. Part of the **ShowPeace Series** for conflict resolution. (10 min) Visit www.nfb.ca/showpeace.

Glasses: In this puppet animation, a Grade 1 boy is humiliated in class and on the playground by his nearsightedness. A pair of glasses brings things into focus and also teaches him a valuable lesson about friendship. (23 min)

Talespinners: A collection of eight videos that use vibrant animation to bring popular stories from around the world to the screen.

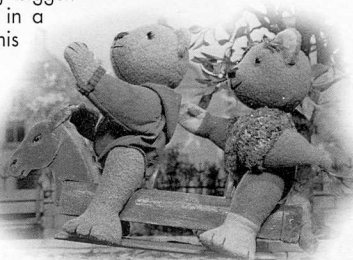
BOOKS TO READ ALOUD

The Bully, John Koning. Bridgenorth, ON: F.I.S.H. Books, 2001. A touching story about kindness and friendship and how it can change another person's life.

The Lucy Doll, Diane Jarvis Jones. Vancouver: Aunt Mary Buttons, 1999. Lucy helps Delphine overcome her fear and regain her confidence so she can speak out against bullying.

Matthew and the Midnight Wrestlers, Allen Morgan. Bothered by a neighbourhood bully, Matthew fantasizes about growing bigger. When a wrestler invites him to compete in a zany midnight match, Matthew realizes his undiscovered talents.

So Long, Stinky Queen, Frieda Wishinsky. Markham, ON: Fitzhenry & Whiteside, 2000. When one of Samantha's classmates pushes her way into a game, she feels left out. It's up to Samantha to stand up for herself and, at the same time, show forgiveness.



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Before discussing the film, lead the children through a retelling of the story in their own words, helping them to recall not only the bear who bullied everyone in the



Director:
Co Hoedeman

Producer:
Jean-Jacques Leduc

Script and Text:
Marie-Francine Hébert,
Co Hoedeman

Art Direction:
Denis Rondeau

Images:
Co Hoedeman

Editor:
José Heppell

Animation:
Lilian Kruij,
Co Hoedeman

Music:
Daniel Lavoie

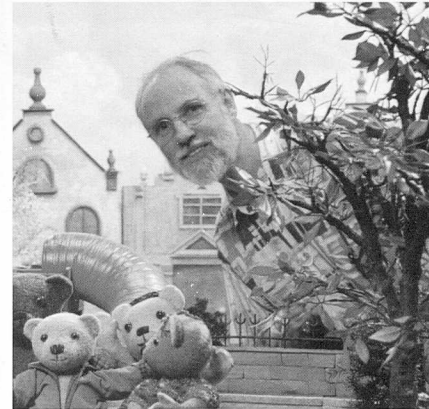
Sound:
Stéphane Cadotte,
Richard Charbonneau,
France Dubé,
Serge Boivin,
Jean Paul Vialard,
Geoffrey Mitchell,
Michael Delaney,
Patrick Viegas

Voice and Narration:
Sonja Ball

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ABOUT THE FILMMAKER



Co Hoedeman was born in Amsterdam and immigrated to Canada when he was 25. He soon joined the National Film Board, where he directed *Continental Drift* (1968), *Oddball* (1969) and *Matrioska* (1970). After studying puppet animation in Czechoslovakia, he returned to the NFB and made *Tchou-tchou* (1972). An interest in Arctic legends led him to direct four films in close collaboration with

Inuit artists. This was followed by a number of films with innovative animation techniques: *The Sand Castle* (1977), *The Treasure of the Grotocceans* (1980), *Masquerade* (1984), *Charles and François* (1987), *The Box* (1989), *The Sniffing Bear* (1992) and *The Garden of Ecos* (1997).

In 2002, he completed his four-part series *Four Seasons in the Life of Ludovic*. In addition to **Magic in the Air**, the other videos are entitled **The Snow Gift**, **Visiting Grandpa** and **A Crocodile in My Garden**.

Hoedeman's films reveal a close observation of human interaction and an intuitive understanding of the world of children. His work has garnered numerous international awards, including an Oscar® for *The Sand Castle*. In Bratislava, Slovak Republic, in 1999, Hoedeman received the prestigious Klingsor Prize for his body of work.

