

# Glasses

The tale of a boy who doesn't see things the way everyone else does!

Milo is always losing his lunch box, screwing up in class and humiliating himself on the playground. He wants to be invincible like his comic book hero Captain Cosmo, but for a shy near-sighted kid, the humiliations of Grade 1 know no bounds! He lives in a lonely, blurry world and is blind to his one true friend, Gwenny.

A visit to the eye doctor brings things into focus. His first pair of glasses gives him new power in class and on the playground. Full of new-found confidence, he loses sight of who his friends really are until a crushing accident reminds him.

***Glasses** explores what it's like for a little boy who doesn't see things quite the way other kids do but longs to fit in. Children will be amused by this funny, poignant story. Teachers in elementary school will find it an entertaining discussion-starter for issues that affect their students: peer pressure, fear of feeling left out, friendship and acceptance.*

Director: Brian Duchscherer  
Producer: Marcy Page

22 minutes 32 seconds  
Order number: C9101 184



Closed captioned.  
A decoder is required.

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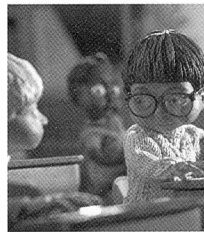
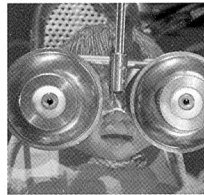
## Discussion Questions

1. First, ask the children to briefly describe Milo's experience in school, with Gwenny and with his vision problems.
2. Suggest that Milo's vivid imagination may have developed because he was so cut off from his schoolmates due to his near-sightedness. Try to elicit examples. For instance, at the very beginning of the film, we see a drawing of Milo's on his bedroom wall that says "My lunch box." Ask how the lunch box is drawn (as a monster with pointy teeth). Later, when Milo loses the lunch box again, it comes alive, complete with eyeballs peering out from the lid — just as he had imagined. Ask the children to picture how other ordinary objects would behave if they came alive. Encourage the children to illustrate their ideas with a drawing. This exercise will likely produce some humorous examples.
3. On one level, this film is about a boy whose social problems stem from blurry vision, but **Glasses** is also about bullying and intolerance, offering an excellent opportunity to discuss these issues. Ask the children how they would handle bullying directed at themselves or at a classmate.
4. **Glasses** is also about friendship: how everyone — especially kids — needs to feel included and befriended. At the end of the film, Gwenny and Milo sit together in oddball felicity, at ease with each other. Ask the children about their special friends, their best friends and how they came to be friends. Lead them to see that you never know where a friend might come from, and that friendship is often a great surprise.

## Brian Duchscherer, the filmmaker



Brian Duchscherer has been obsessed with puppet animation for most of his life. Born and raised in Saskatchewan, he moved to Montreal to work at the NFB, where he has made **The Balgonie Birdman** (1991) and **Glasses** (2001). Brian describes himself as a blacksmith with a camera: "In this digital age, I'm striving to tell my stories in a simpler way. Computer-generated 3D animation can be so sterile — there's no dust, no residue of life! When a puppet moves, it's supernatural."



22 minutes 32 seconds



## RECOMMENDED READING

### On wearing glasses:

Manson, Ainslie: *Ballerinas Don't Wear Glasses*, 2000, Orca, Victoria, BC.  
Smith, Lane: *Glasses: Who Needs 'Em?*, 1991, Penguin Books Canada Limited, Toronto.  
Wild, Margaret: *All the Better to See You With*, 1993, Albert Whitman, Morton Grove, Illinois.

### On bullying:

Blume, Judy: *Blubber*, 1982, Simon & Schuster Children's Publishing, NY.  
Caseley, Judith: *Bully*, 2001, HarperCollins-Canada Limited, Toronto.  
Koning, John: *The Bully*, 1999, F.I.S.H. Books, Bridgenorth, Ontario.  
Scrimger, Richard: *The Nose from Jupiter*, 1998, Tundra Books, Toronto.  
Staunton, Ted, and Holdcroft, Tina: *Taking Care of Crumley*, 1984, Kids Can Press, Toronto.

## RELATED NFB VIDEOS

50 for 50: Volume 1, Tape 4: Children's Choice  
AnimaFeast 95 Volume 2  
Best of the Best: Especially for Kids!  
*Rights from the Heart Series*  
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## CREDITS

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Jamieson Boulanger.....Milo  
Kliment Dentchev .....Optometrist  
Anna Papadakos .....Teacher  
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Hayley Reynolds ..... Gwenny  
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*Voice recording:* Michel Chalut  
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*Producer:* Marcy Page