

# FROM FAR AWAY

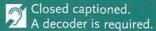
This touching story tells of Saoussan, a young girl struggling to adjust to a new world after being uprooted from her wartorn homeland. She has come to seek a quieter and safer life in Canada although memories of war and death linger, and she must cope with a new language and culture. From Far Away speaks to the power within us all to adapt like Saoussan and to welcome a newcomer.

From Far Away is part of the NFB's *Talespinners* collection. Created for children aged five to nine, *Talespinners* uses vibrant animation to bring popular stories from a wide range of cultural communities to the screen.

Directors: Shira Avni, Serene El-Haj Daoud Producer: Michael Fukushima TO ORDER NFB VIDEOS, CALL TODAY! 1-800-267-7710 (Canada) 1-800-542-2164 (USA)

## www.nfb.ca/talespinners

6 minutes 39 seconds C9100 021



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# From Far Away



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Based on the book by
ROBERT MUNSCH AND SAOUSSAN ASKAR





A National Film Board of Canada Production







# FROM FAR AWAY

Study guide

### A. Welcoming a Newcomer

Imagine that a new student from a foreign country will be coming to your class who doesn't speak English or French. How will you make her feel welcome? Brainstorm ten words, phrases or sentences to teach her so that she will feel RELATED NFB VIDEOS comfortable at school and on the A Monster's Calling: An animated boy? Why?

#### B. Halloween

How did Halloween become associated with pumpkins, skeletons, black cats, witches, orangeand-black things and candy? What is the origin of this holiday? Where in the world is it celebrated? Why is it not celebrated everywhere?

#### C. Fears

Everybody has experienced fear. When you were younger, what were you afraid of and how did you deal with this fear? Who helped you?

school bus. Would you change tale of a monster that roams the anything if the new student were a house at night scaring the children, knowing what each one is afraid of.

> Glasses: An animated tale of a little boy in Grade 1 who is humiliated in the classroom and on the playing field because he can't see well. A pair of glasses changes everything!



Written by: SUGITH VARUGHESE

> Voice: **JESSE VINET**

Digital imaging: **CATHERINE LAFORTUNE** 

Digital imaging specialist: NORMAND GAUTHIER

Picture editing: **GORDON HASHIMOTO** 

Music and sound design: NORMAND ROGER

With the collaboration of: **DENIS CHARTRAND** 

Sound editing: **JEAN-BAPTISTE ROGER** 

Re-recording: SERGE BOIVIN JEAN PAUL VIALARD

Executive producer: ISOBEL MARKS DAVID VERRALL

Producer: MICHAEL FUKUSHIMA



Born in Petakh Tikvah, Israel, in 1974, Shira Avni was raised in Montreal. An incorrigible doodler and puppet maker, Shira found herself graduating Magna Cum Laude from Concordia University with a BFA in Animation in 1998. Her student work earned her the Dean's Award in 1997 and the Cinema Prize the following year. Her first film, 48 Second Blues, won Best Animated Video at the Montreal World Film Festival's student competition in 1997. Shira's graduate studies at the Art Institute of Chicago began in 2001. From Far Away is her first professional film.



Serene El-Haj Daoud was born in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, in 1975, where she lived as a Palestinian refugee until her family immigrated to Montreal in 1989. She graduated from Champlain Regional College in Creative Arts in 1995 and completed her BFA in Film Animation at Concordia University. Serene received several grants and awards at Concordia for her student films, including the Zlatko Grgic Award in 1996, and the Dean's Award the following year. Her films The Poem, The Riddle, and Underneath All Currents were screened at Concordia's Animation Festival in 1998. The Poem was also shown as part of the student competition of the 1997 Montreal World Film Festival.

Direction and animation: SHIRA AVNI SERENE EL-HAJ DAOUD

> Based on the book From Far Away

by Robert Munsch and Saoussan Askar First published by Annick Press Ltd, Toronto. © Bob Munsch Enterprises Ltd and Saoussan Askar 1995

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