

The SOUND COLLECTOR

"The gift of fantasy has meant more to me than my talent for absorbing positive knowledge."

Albert Einstein



Leonard is a six-year-old with an unusual hobby. His older brother ridicules him; his father says he's a daydreamer. But Leonard has a wonderful way to liven up a rainy day. He collects sounds. His attentive ear and lively imagination transform household noises into marvelous fantasies. With sound upon sound he builds his story, creating for his brother an exciting adventure in which Dracula is thwarted and knights-in-armor chase away monsters and perform daring deeds.

This versatile animation film lends itself to a variety of classroom uses. It will be particularly popular with Art and Language Arts teachers for stimulating young children's creativity. As a discussion starter, it can serve to generate dialogue on relationships within a family, individuality and imagination.

The *Sound Collector* uses a combination of artistic techniques; colored inks and paints on glass illustrate the fantasy sequences and collage paper cut-outs from magazines are used to animate the main story. The idea for the film resulted from the filmmaker's fascination with how sounds work and how children respond imaginatively to what they hear.

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Executive Producer
David Verrall

**Produced and distributed by
National Film Board of Canada**

16 mm Color
Screening time:
11 minutes 55 seconds
35 mm: 105C 0182 057
16 mm: 106C 0182 057
Video: 116C 0182 057



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du Canada**

Although this guide is directed toward primary level teachers, many of the suggestions can be easily adapted for use with older students, parent groups, and teacher education.

BEFORE SCREENING THE FILM

TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION:

- Imagining things
- Rainy day activities
- Collecting things
- Relationships with brothers and sisters
- Seeing things differently (perception)
- Hearing, seeing, touching, smelling... and thinking (interdependence of the senses)

ACTIVITY:

Ask the children to close their eyes and listen. Make a simple sequence of sounds (e.g. tap... tap... TAP... tap... ding...). Have them tell what stories the sounds brought to their minds.



AFTER SCREENING THE FILM

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION:

- Does Leonard really *collect* sounds? Why did he say that he collected sounds?
- How can you make things "real" inside your head?
- Why did Seymour finally join in Leonard's game?
- Is it easier to be the younger or the older brother or sister?
- How do you feel about people who seem to be different? Have you ever disliked someone when you first met them, but later found out that they were really special? Why do you think that happened?
- Tell about being scared by a sound. Did your imagination frighten you or was it a real danger? How can you "cool down" your imagination if you become too frightened?
- Have you ever been frightened by silence? Think of times when silence is *not* frightening such as walking in a field through gently falling snow. What sounds exist in space? What would astronauts hear?
- Why would you like (or not like) to be Leonard?
- What things do you collect? Why do you do this? If you could collect anything you wanted to in the whole world, what would you choose?

ACTIVITIES:

- Have children work in groups to create and record sound sequences and to tell stories about them. Groups can exchange tapes and create even more stories from the sounds.



- Have children tell or write a story about a time when they were frightened by a sound.
- Find and read examples in poetry where something sounds like something else. Explore the qualities in onomatopoeic words. Make a list of such words.
- Ask students to write sound words visually to illustrate the word's meaning.
- Have children make collages using magazine pictures, perhaps interpreting recorded sounds.
- Over a period of time build up a list of sounds on the classroom wall along with imaginative interpretations.

For example:

Sounds	Possible Interpretations
crunching steps in snow	a goose quacking
curtain flapping	a bird flying
wobbly carriage wheels	a bird call
sizzle of bacon	a forest fire
getting out of bathtub	the sound of a canoe paddle
opening a pickle jar	a kiss
knitting needles	a fly tap dancing

RELATED NFB FILMS:

- *Luna, Luna, Luna*
- *Dans la vie*
- *The Magic Flute*
- *Every Child*
(The entire sound track was created with voices.)
- *This Is Your Museum Speaking*

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P.O. Box 6100, Montreal, Quebec H3C 3H5

Printed in Canada

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