

Crystal Bear for best short film, Children's Jury,
Berlin International Film Festival, 2004

C 9103 025

A child's philosophical musings

Stormy Night



Stormy Night



A film by **Michèle Lemieux**

As a storm threatens one night, a little girl wonders aloud about the world, about herself. In *Stormy Night*, Michèle Lemieux explores thoughts of the universe, without making concessions or providing answers. She gives wonderful movement and colour to the spirit of *Gewitternacht*, first published in 1996 and translated into 13 languages.

Direction, Script, Animation, Backgrounds: **Michèle Lemieux**

Chief Animator: **Sylvain Proteau**

Picture Editing: **Richard Comeau**

Voice: **Émilie Cassini**

Sound Design and Music: **Normand Roger**

Sound Editing: **Pierre Yves Drapeau**

Producers: **Marcel Jean and Jean-Jacques Leduc**

A National Film Board of Canada production

9 min 49 s

Technique: Drawings on paper, computer rendering

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VHS
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Closed captioned. A decoder is required.



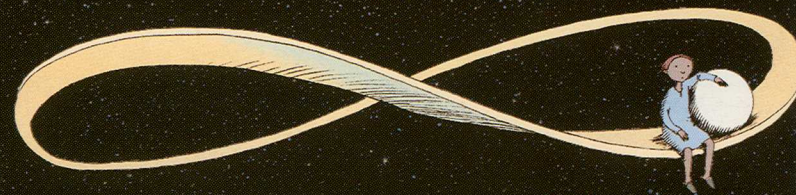
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Stormy Night



Study Guide

STORMY NIGHT

Am I one-of-a-kind? Am I brave? Maybe I'll even be a hero! Where do we go when we die? Where does infinity end? Is there life on other planets?

Target audience

Age 10 and over

Stormy Night is an animated short for youngsters and adults who are searching for the meaning of life, who want to know where they come from and where they are headed. Parents and teachers can tackle different themes with children (the universe, self-concept, intelligence, death, etc.), through discussions, drama (sketches and mime), writing (poems, letters, etc.), drawings and comic strips, and various arts and crafts.

Youngsters can:

- express their fears and questions
- explore their creativity and use their minds and imaginations
- develop personal opinions on a variety of topics
- learn more about themselves and develop their self-concept

Stormy Night is worth watching more than once. Each screening is an opportunity for additional reflection and new discoveries.

Teachers could explore the following topics with students in English, religious instruction, visual arts, and science and technology classes.



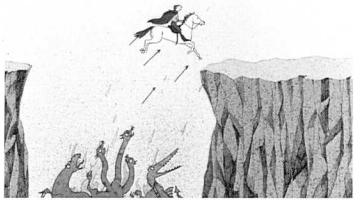
Extraterrestrials?

LIFE ON ANOTHER PLANET

- Imagine life on another planet.
- Learn about the solar system.
- Explore the notion of eternity.
- Describe or draw the ideal planet.
- Ask your family and friends whether they believe in the existence of extraterrestrials.
- Discuss the need to protect the environment.

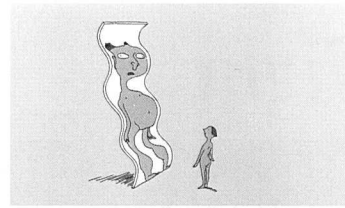
SELF-CONCEPT

- Define intelligence.
- Discuss different types of intelligence (e.g. emotional intelligence).
- Identify your strengths and weaknesses.
- Describe the hero you'd like to be.
- What kinds of special powers would you like to have and who would you defend?

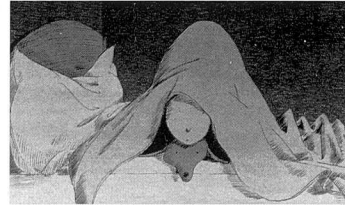


Do you want to be a hero?

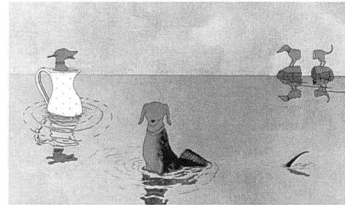
Stormy Night



Are you are good looking?



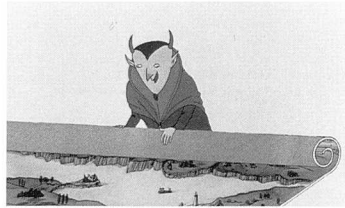
Are you scared of being scared?



Do you dream every night?



Do you want to have children some day?



The end of the world?

OUR BODIE

- Describe the physical features of one of your classmates.
- Feel good about your body.
- Define inner and exterior beauty.
- Identify your own physical characteristics (strong points and weak points).
- Make a puppet with recycled materials.

FEAR

- Explore your fears.
- Describe what scares you at home, at school, outdoors, etc.
- Draw your emotions: anger, sadness, fear, joy, surprise, etc.

NIGHTTIME

- Identify the various phases in dreaming.
- Imagine your wildest dream and what would happen if it came true.
- Describe your worst nightmare.

PROCREATION

- Explain how babies are made.
- Learn about the birth process.
- Describe the different stages in our life cycle.

DEATH AND ETERNITY

- Losing someone you love.
- Dealing with grief.
- Imagine the end of the world.
- Talk about different religious beliefs, the meaning of life and death, and life after death.