

THROUGH MY THICK GLASSES

:: A LITTLE GIRL'S HAZY VIEW OF WORLD WAR II ::
based on a true story

An old man tells his granddaughter his personal story of the Second World War. Brimming with strange characters, his tale conjures up a world beyond the little girl's comprehension. Director **Pjotr Sapegin** has taken a true story and transformed it into a tongue-in-cheek epic peopled with clay puppets. The animated short is dedicated to Sapegin's mother.



Director: **Pjotr Sapegin**

Screenplay: **Pjotr Sapegin, David Reiss-Andersen**

Music and Sound Design: **Normand Roger in collaboration with Denis Chartrand**

Voice, Grandpa: **Odd Børretzen**

Photographer: **Janne K. Hansen**

Animation: **Pjotr Sapegin, Chantal Masson, Kaja Wright Polmar, Marte Stensen**

Editing: **Simen Gengenbach**

Sound Editing: **Pierre Yves Drapeau**

Producers: **Marcel Jean (NFB), David Reiss-Andersen (PRAVDA)**

A Pravda and National Film Board of Canada co-production

Technique: **Puppet animation on glass**

12 min 41 s



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A film by ::
PJOTR SAPEGIN
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VHS

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Closed-captioned
A decoder is required

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A PRAVDA AND NATIONAL FILM
BOARD OF CANADA CO-PRODUCTION

PRAVDA



THROUGH MY THICK GLASSES

Who are my grandparents? What was the world like when they were my age?
Did they fulfill their dreams? What do I know about Norway?
What is it like to live through war?

AUDIENCE: Age 12 and over

The animated short *Through My Thick Glasses* is aimed at those interested in 20th century history in particular, and the world of their grandparents in general.

In a school or home setting, the story the Norwegian grandfather tells his granddaughter could spark discussion on themes such as intergenerational relations, World War II, life in other countries, and artistic representation. By using information technology, composing essays on various subjects, creating and analyzing artwork, and writing and performing skits, young viewers will have the opportunity to:

- ⌘ build a vision of the world based on historical facts and compare it to that of other people
- ⌘ express their creativity in different ways depending on their skills and interests
- ⌘ get to know themselves better and learn more about their family members, particularly the older generation
- ⌘ develop their critical thinking and ability to reflect on the world around them

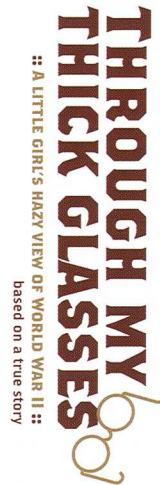
Warning: Presence and use of firearms.

The following themes can be explored in classes in the visual arts, English, history and citizenship, communications and the media, and religious and moral instruction. Each theme leads to various projects that can be adapted to the ages and interests of all young people.

THEMES

Intergenerational Relations

- ⌘ Ask your grandparents questions about their lives.
- ⌘ Carry out surveys appropriate to each generation.
- ⌘ Understand the dreams and concerns of senior citizens.
- ⌘ Identify the differences between life today and life in earlier times.
- ⌘ Write a letter, imagining that you live in your grandparents' era.
- ⌘ Spot the discrepancies between the grandfather's story and his granddaughter's vision.
- ⌘ Describe how a child might interpret certain phenomena (this is appropriate for older students).



World War II

- ⌘ Describe what it is like for a country to be occupied by a foreign power.
- ⌘ Do research on different aspects of World War II and assess the various sources used.
- ⌘ Learn about the reality of different countries during World War II and assess the various sources used.
- ⌘ Present the results of your research using communications technologies.
- ⌘ Define concepts such as *war machine*, *resistance*, *Gestapo*, *occupation* and *democracy*.
- ⌘ Explain where political institutions come from.
- ⌘ Express your concerns about war and militarization.

Animation Film

- ⌘ Show how the filmmaker uses humour and burlesque to tell the story.
- ⌘ Define such terms as *humour*, *burlesque*, *expressionism* and *perspective*.
- ⌘ Research the expressionist movement.
- ⌘ Identify the characteristics of the film's style.
- ⌘ Present the results of your research using communications technologies.
- ⌘ Create artworks that play with perspective.
- ⌘ Use modelling clay to create a three-dimensional character that expresses an emotion.
- ⌘ Describe how the little girl's vision is evoked through elements of visual and cinematographic language.
- ⌘ Fill in the narrative shortcuts with skits or improvisations.

NORWAY

- ⌘ Talk about what you know of Norway.
- ⌘ Describe the passages in the film that refer to the country.
- ⌘ Use the information to put together a data bank on the country.
- ⌘ Do a survey of people you know to find out what country their grandparents came from.
- ⌘ Discuss the results.
- ⌘ Compare various aspects of life in Norway to that of other countries.
- ⌘ Share the results in an oral report.
- ⌘ Listen to songs from various countries.
- ⌘ Assess and critique the various sources used.