

Un film de / A film by Pierre-Luc Granjon

Le printemps de Mélie

Molly in springtime

*Un joyau de fabliau
où les petites futes
ne s'en laissent pas conter*

*Love trumps deceit in
a delightful medieval tale*



GUIDE PÉDAGOGIQUE
TEACHER'S GUIDE



LESSON PLAN

MOLLY IN SPRINGTIME

Activity 1 — Word Study Exercise

Activity 2 — Listening and Observing

Activity 3 — Recap and Reflective Sharing (optional)

OBJECTIVE

The suggested activities are meant to help students discover the world of the animated film *Molly in Springtime*. The freeze frame method used for this activity makes learning fun, enabling students to increase their vocabulary as they watch each section of the film. Students also increase their concentration and listening abilities by answering a series of questions designed to sharpen their observation skills.

CONNECTIONS

French, language of instruction
Français, langue seconde
Arts and culture
Languages and literature

LEVELS

Elementary: Cycle 2
Grades 4, 5 and 6
Secondary I

SUPPLIES

DVD player, television set, remote control, dictionaries, notebooks and pencils

PROCEDURE: OUTLINE

- The activities are fun-based: freeze frame technique.
- Students watch the film in five sections that correspond to the story’s narrative structure (plot):
 - Section 1 — introduction
 - Section 2 — conflict (misdeed) or plot trigger
 - Section 3 — heroine’s quest to resolve the conflict (setbacks)
 - Section 4 — resolution of the conflict
 - Section 5 — denouement

PROCEDURE: SUGGESTIONS

1 double period

Word Study Exercise

- ***Divide students into three teams.***
- Before watching each section, ask the class to read the words in the appendix.
- Explain the meaning of unfamiliar words or ask students to look them up in the dictionary.
- The game is to find the words as soon as they appear on the screen.

- ***Begin watching the section, keeping the remote control in your hand.***
- Freeze the frame as soon as a team identifies one of the words on the screen.
- Ask students to share their comments.
- ***Continue watching the section and repeat this procedure until its conclusion.***

Listening and Observing

Immediately after watching a section, ask students to answer the questions in the activity ***Listening and Observing***.

- To get them involved, keep track of each team's answers: the team with the most correct answers wins.
- Answers must be given in complete sentences: subject, verb, modifier (if applicable).

Repeat procedure for the next four sections

RECAP AND REFLECTIVE SHARING

1 double period

Using the summary included in the appendix, ask students to summarize each scene in the film. Their summaries ought to answer the standard questions: *Who? What? How? Where? When? Why/ For what reason?* The summaries must also follow the fairy tale narrative structure included in the appendix:

1) introduction; 2) conflict (misdeed) or plot trigger; 3) heroine's quest and her setbacks in resolving the conflict; 4) resolution of the conflict; and 5) denouement (conclusion).

DIVISION INTO SECTIONS AND TEACHER'S ANSWER SHEET

SECTION 1 — INTRODUCTION

POSITION MARKER

From the very beginning of the film... up to the credits showing the film's title: *Molly in Springtime*.

From **0:00:00** up to the frame freeze at **0:03:48**.

Word Study Exercise (5 words)

Freeze frame game

Painted linen canvasses raised and lowered by a **pulley system**, a **crank**, **serrations**, a **false beard**, (or a **hairpiece**).

Listening and Observing (3 questions)

1. In which season do the people of Balthazarville celebrate the Flower Festival?

A: They celebrate the Flower Festival in the spring.

2. What is Bonifacio's secret ambition?

A: He wants to be the Flower King. (King of the carnival)

3. How will Bonifacio disguise himself during the carnival?

A: To disguise himself, Bonifacio will wear a false beard.

SECTION 2 — THE CONFLICT (MISDEED) OR PLOT TRIGGER

POSITION MARKER

In the clearing near the spring... up to the moment at which Molly is in the bookshop and discovers the effects of the magic apple: "It looks like someone poisoned the water in Balthazarville with a magic apple."

from **0:03:48** up to the frame freeze at **0:12:00**.

Word Study Exercise (10 words)

Freeze frame game

Tonsures, a chef's or a pastry chef's **toque**, a **spell**, to **ford** a river, a **farandole**, a **cheval mirror**, a **stained glass window**, a **knocker**, a **pet door***, a **shoulder bag**.

Listening and Observing (10 questions)

1. What animals distribute pieces of honey cake to the young ladies of the kingdom?
A: Hannibal the elephant and Hedgehog distribute pieces of honey cake to the young ladies of the kingdom.
2. Why does Miss Melody not want her piece of honey cake?
A: Miss Melody does not take her piece because she does not like honey cake.
3. Who is crowned Flower Queen and why?
A : Princess Molly is crowned Flower Queen because she found the charm in her piece of honey cake.
4. Who is crowned Flower King and why?
A: Leon is crowned Flower King because he was chosen by Princess Molly, the Flower Queen. He is her favourite.
5. Who steals the magic apple and dips it into the stream to poison the people of the village?
A : Bonifacio steals the magic apple and dips it into the stream.
6. To achieve his goal, Bonifacio lies to the people. What is his lie? (Be specific.) **A : Bonifacio announces the arrival of a terrible epidemic which he calls the “bloated belly disease.” He says that this disease is caused by honey. Actually, the disease is the result of drinking the water poisoned by the magic apple, which he himself dipped into the stream.**
7. Princess Molly is holding a daisy in her hand and, as she picks off each petal she says: “He loves me, he loves me not, he loves me, he loves me not.” If the daisy tells the truth, what does that say about Leon’s feelings for her? Does he love her a little or is he crazy about her?
A : If the answer is yes, Leon is crazy about Princess Molly.
8. To what fruit does the king compare his swollen belly?
A : The king’s belly is as bloated as a pumpkin. Wow!
9. In Molly’s book, there is a page describing the king’s illness? What page is it?
A : The description of the “bloated belly disease which makes bellies swell up and fart” is on page 26 of Molly’s book, but the page has been torn out.
10. What excuse does Bonifacio give as he bursts into the king’s chamber? What kind of job does he pretend to do? **A : Bonifacio comes into the king’s chamber by pretending to be a doctor.**

SECTION 3 – THE HEROINE’S QUEST TO RESOLVE THE CONFLICT

POSITION MARKER

In the forest, Leon and Hannibal are peering inside a beehive... up to the speech that Bonifacio makes: “(...) And so let’s burn Belly Bone!”

From **0:12:00** up to the frame freeze at **0:22:03**.

Word Study Exercise (10 words)

Freeze frame game

Beehives, a vent light, store sign, wanted posters, a cave, the Big Dipper, a gag, a goblet, a speech, a swarm.

Listening and Observing (10 questions)

1. How many beehives can you see in the clearing?
A: There are three beehives in the clearing.
2. Bonifacio has disguised himself as the Flower King because he is wearing his crown upside down. What name is he using?
A: Bonifacio is calling himself King Quack.
3. During the wild chase, what flies out when the people drop down into the chimney? **A: Clouds of soot fly out when the people (Molly, Melody and Bonifacio) go down the chimney.**
4. At the end of the wild chase, where did Molly and Melody find a hiding place?
A: To escape King Quack (Bonifacio) and the guards, Molly and Melody hid in a barrel.
5. What is the last name of Leon's parents?
A: Leon's parents are called Mr. And Mrs. Martin.
6. What do Leon's parents do for a living?
A: They are beekeepers.
7. the Hedgehog is afraid he will 'miss out' by not going to the Carnival. What does the expression 'to miss out on something' mean? Pougne le hérisson a peur de « loucher » le carnaval. Que signifie l'expression « loucher » quelque chose?
A: Being afraid of 'missing out' means to be afraid of not being able to attend an event and joining in the fun. Avoir peur de « loucher » quelque chose, c'est avoir peur de « rater », de « manquer » quelque chose.
8. What is floating in Molly's goblet when she is nursing the mountain bear in the cave?
A: A pinkadee flower is floating in Molly's goblet.
9. What do Molly and Melody use to cover up the mountain bear's bottom (mistaking him for Leon)?
A: Molly and Melody make him a skirt (a loincloth) with the green cape belonging to the Flower King.
10. What is the mountain bear cub holding in his paw while the meadow blossoms into hundreds of blooms? (This is actually why Molly and Melody confuse the cub with Leon, since this object belongs to Leon.)
A: The bear cub is holding Leon's fishing rod in his paw.

SECTION 4 — RESOLUTION OF THE CONFLICT

POSITION MARKER

Molly, Melody and the cub come back to town in their barrel...up to the moment when Belly Bone tumbles to the ground.

From **0:22:03** up to the frame freeze at **0:25:44**.

Word Study Exercise (5 words)

Freeze frame game

Gears, a colander, (or a strainer), a lock, a fire basket (or a brazier), leverage effect.

Listening and Observing (5 questions)

1. When Molly, Melody and the bear cub enter the village, how many wanted posters can be seen on the castle wall, by the docks?
A: Three wanted posters can be seen on the castle wall.
2. Mr. Martin, Leon's father, is wearing a strange hat when he is inside the straw giant. What is it?
A: Mr. Martin is wearing a colander as a hat.
3. Mr. and Mrs. Martin saved King Balthazar. Where did they hide him?
A: King Balthazar was hidden in the huge crown on top of Belly Bone's head.
4. How was the bear cub able to untie Leon?
A: The bear cub used his teeth.
5. How did Bonifacio light the fire basket?
A: Bonifacio lit the fire basket with a match.

SECTION 5 — DENOUEMENT (CONCLUSION)

POSITION MARKER

Molly and Leon are dangling from Belly Bone's crown... up to the end of the credits.

From **0:25:44** up to the frame freeze at **0:26:59**.

Listening and Observing (5 questions)

Freeze frame game

Bells, flags, dive, credits, a rhyme with '4, 5, 6...

Listening and Observing (1 essay question)

1. What are the greatest qualities of a hero or a heroine? Choose examples from the story you have just heard.

APPENDIX – FILM SUMMARY

MOLLY IN SPRINGTIME

1 – INTRODUCTION

PROLOGUE

Bonifacio is going to tell us a story as if we were sitting in a theatre. While turning a mechanism that makes the scenery revolve, he tells us that the story takes place in Balthazarville, during the Flower Festival which is held every spring. One of the events involves erecting a straw giant and setting it on fire. This figure is called Belly Bone – the king of winter – and he is set alight to ensure the arrival of warmer weather. According to tradition, a young woman will be crowned Flower Queen and her favourite will be crowned king. As Bonifacio is very ambitious to become Flower King, he seems to have made a plan. He puts on a false beard to go about in disguise. And so let's join him as our story begins....

2 – THE CONFLICT OR PLOT TRIGGER

THE CONFLICT

The festivities are officially declared open. Everyone is laughing and dancing. Molly, the Flower Queen, has chosen Leon, her favourite, to be her king. Bonifacio is consumed by jealousy. While everyone is celebrating the Flower Festival, Bonifacio steals Hedgehog's magic apple and sneaks out of the castle. The rogue has a plan to unseat Leon and make Molly his queen.

SOMETHING'S MISSING

Mr. and Mrs. Martin congratulate their son Leon. Mrs. Martin is worried: the flower festival has just started and they have almost no honey left. Leon volunteers to get some more tomorrow morning. Hannibal the elephant will go along. And Hedgehog will go too, even though he wasn't invited.

THE ROGUE'S PLAN

That night, in the forest, Bonifacio dips the magic apple into the pure spring water while reciting a spell. Immediately, the water begins to boil and to

WORD STUDY

5 words

Painted linen canvasses raised and lowered by a **pulley system**, a **crank**, **serrations**, a **false beard**, (or a **hairpiece**).

Word Study

10 words

Tonsures, a chef's or a pastry chef's **toque**, a **(spell)**, to **ford** a river, a **farandole (circle dance of Provence)**, a banner, a **cheval mirror**, a **stained glass window**, a **knocker**, a **pet door**, a **shoulder bag**.

send up bubbles into the air. Nasty Bonifacio has just polluted the source that provides all the people of Balthazarville with their water.

A SOLUTION FOR THE MISSING HONEY (LEON)

The next morning, Leon, Hannibal and Hedgehog cross the big bridge to gather honey in the forest. Bonifacio, who is coming out of the forest, has hidden under the bridge and is watching them walk away. He leans over the water in the river and giggles with laughter when he sees the swollen bellies of the poisoned fish.

THE CONFLICT: THE ROGUE REFINES HIS PLAN (TOWNSPEOPLE)

Back in town once again, Bonifacio happily watches the townspeople using lots of water. He climbs on a barrel and speaks to the crowd as they are singing and dancing around Belly Bone, the straw giant that, according to tradition, will be lit on fire during the festival. The rogue Bonifacio warns the people that the festival is threatened by a horrible epidemic that will make their bellies bloat. He stresses that honey is responsible for this sickness, hoping to use this lie to accuse Leon and his friends.

THE HEROINE GETS INVOLVED

A guard looks for Princess Molly in her room and tells her that her father is sick. She rushes to her father's bedside carrying her book of plant remedies. The king's belly is as bloated as a pumpkin. In great pain, he passes gas constantly and is very embarrassed. Leafing through the book, Princess Molly discovers that the page describing the remedy for bloating belly disease has been torn out. She quickly decides to ask the doctor, but there is no one at the doctor's house. Molly meets the bookseller, Melody Hedgehog, who happens to have another copy of the book. As they read it, they find out that the magic apple is the true cause of the disease. This leads Molly to realize that someone with evil intentions has poisoned the town's water. The book states that the pinkadee flower is the only cure for this disease.

THE CONFLICT: THE ROGUE REFINES HIS PLAN (KING)

While Molly and Melody are poring over the manuscripts, Bonifacio bursts into the king's chamber by pretending to be a doctor. He promises the king that he can cure him, on condition that the king lend him the crown and name him Flower King instead of Leon. The king agrees. Immediately, the rogue locks the king in his chamber and announces that he is now King Quack. He then orders Leon and his friends to be arrested.

3 – THE HEROINE'S QUEST AND SETBACKS IN RESOLVING THE CONFLICT

1st SECONDARY SETBACK (LEON)

Leon and his friends have gone to collect honey in the forest. Suddenly they are interrupted by a whimpering noise. Leon goes to investigate and finds a mountain bear cub lying down on the grass. He seems to be very sick.

1st MAIN SETBACK (MOLLY)

As they are coming out of the bookshop, Molly and Melody notice that the water is fizzy. The Quack King appears and suddenly announces that he want to marry Princess Molly. Molly turns him down flat. The Quack King then immediately orders his guards to arrest Molly. Seeing this, Melody steals the Quack king's crown as a diversion. A wild chase follows, in which Molly and Melody discover that the Quack King is none other than Bonifacio. To outsmart the rogue, they hide inside a barrel.

2nd MAIN SETBACK (MOLLY)

Inside their barrel, Molly and Melody float down the river that flows beside the castle. They pass by the castle prison bars and Molly sees Leon's parents who were arrested by nasty King Quack. The Martins, Molly and Melody quickly tell them what Bonifacio has been up to. Molly then gives the Martins a key that will open all the castle doors. With it they can escape and rescue the king. Molly also tells them the secret plan that she and Melody have concocted to prevent Bonifacio from carrying out his plan. Molly and Melody then head for the forest to warn Leon and his friends that they are wanted and to put into place the first part of their plan.

Word Study 10 words

Beehives, a vent light, a store sign, wanted posters, a cave, the Big Dipper, a gag, a goblet, a speech, a swarm.

2nd SECONDARY SETBACK (LEON)

Leon has hidden inside a cave to take care of the sick bear cub. He has covered the cub with his Flower King cape. Outside, his friends are becoming impatient because they want to return to the city and be part of the celebrations. Leon cannot bring himself to abandon the bear cub. At the very moment that his friends convince Leon to bring the cub along, they hear, from afar, Molly's voice calling for help. In fact, it's Bonifacio luring them into a trap; he captures them with his net. He will be able to arrest them himself and be greeted as a hero by the entire town.

3rd MAIN SETBACK (MOLLY)

Molly and Melody arrive at the spring and take out the magic apple. There they meet a cute little bee. Thanks to her, Molly discovers the cave where the sick cub is resting. She also comes upon a pinkadee, a flower that can cure the bear. Because they see the cape covering the bear cub, they think it is Leon. The bees guide them to a whole meadow of flowers that are just coming into bloom and which they can use to cure all the townspeople.

3rd SECONDARY SETBACK (THE ROGUE)

In the meantime, the Quack King (Bonifacio) has locked up Leon and his friends in his trailer that was made into a jail. Bonifacio climbs up on to the roof of the trailer and wakes up the sleeping townspeople by giving a rousing speech. He introduces himself as King Quack, the saviour of Balthazarville, who has received the crown from the king himself. Proudly he announces that he has captured the criminals. The people are convinced that he is telling the truth and give him a loud and triumphant welcome.

4 – RESOLUTION OF THE CONFLICT

MOLLY'S PLAN

In their barrel, Molly and Melody return to Balthazarville with the bear cub they think is Leon. As soon as they land, the cub heads for the trailer where Leon, Hannibal and Hedgehog are locked up. He tries to free his friends but does not have any luck. Molly joins Leon's parents, who are hiding inside

Word study 5 words

Gears, a colander, (or a strainer), a padlock, a fire basket (or a brazier), leverage effect.

Belly Bone, to carry out the next part of her plan. While Bonifacio is carrying on, entertaining the people, the straw giant suddenly begins to speak and move as if he were alive.... The plan devised by Molly and Melody is really working. While the Martins make the straw giant move from inside, Molly and Melody tell the people the truth: Bonifacio is the guilty one who has poisoned the people by dipping a magic apple in the waters of the stream and he has imprisoned the king to steal his crown. Molly also tells them that she has the antidote for the bloated belly sickness as she scatters hundred of pinkadee blossoms over the crowd.

LEON'S COURAGE

Furious that he has been caught and exposed, Bonifacio strikes a match and sets fire to Belly Bone. Panic ensues. The straw giant is in danger of tumbling to the ground and taking with him the Martins, Molly and Melody, as well as King Balthazar who had hidden in the crown. At that moment, the mountain bear cub succeeds in ripping off the prison door and freeing Leon and his friends. Leon runs to rescue Molly and the others. Thanks to Hannibal the elephant's size, he is catapulted to the top of Belly Bone's head. Leon just has enough time to attach the huge crown, in which everyone has taken refuge, to the banner that is hanging over the square.

5 – DENOUEMENT

LOVE IS IN THE AIR AND THE ROGUE IS CHASED AWAY

Molly and Leon are suspended side-by-side in mid-air, hanging on to the huge crown of the straw giant which is swinging above the town square in Balthazarville. Molly now understands that it was not Leon she had seen, but rather a mountain bear cub. Bonifacio is chased out of town by a swarm of bees which sting him in the bottom and by the bear cub which gives him a huge scare. Leon and the bear cub say good-bye. Molly and Leon are happy to be together again at last.

Word Study 5 words

Bells, flags, a dive, credits,
a **rhyme** with "4, 5, 6
... finish."

EPILOGUE

While the credits are rolling, the voice of Bonifacio reminds viewers that this whole adventure was just a story. According to him, the bear cub never caught him....