

Study Guide

The Treasure of the Grotocans

Subject Areas:

Language Arts; Art; Values Education; Environment Studies

Suggested Audience:

Kindergarten to Gr. VI

Content:

Through the magic of the animator's camera we visit the bottom of the sea. There we meet two small octopi who are searching for a treasure. A colony of Grotocans, gentle creatures living in underwater caves, jealously guards this treasure. Will our two conspirators succeed in obtaining it?

This quest leads children to question the value and use given various objects by humans. It also serves to heighten their awareness of man's effect on marine ecology.

Before screening the film:

Imagine that you are a deep-sea diver. What might you see under the water?

After seeing the film:

Let the children's initial reactions to the film be the starting point for discussion.

For younger children:

- Try to recall as many objects as you can which the Grotocans made use of.
- How were some of these objects used?

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For older children:

- What things are considered valuable in our society? What objects are valuable to you? Do you have something which is valuable only to you?
- Why do you think the bottle was so precious for the Grotocceans?
- If people from another planet were to visit us for the first time, what conclusions might they draw about our society from the objects we value? (See "What on Earth")
- Discuss the causes of water pollution, its consequences and possible ways of remedying the damage that has already been done.

Other activities:

The film leaves us in suspense. Write your own ending in a paragraph or in comic strip form.

Write your own story about an object that is given a new life and use by a mysterious creature.

Explore the sounds which objects make in different surroundings. Form an "orchestra" and improvise.

Paint a class mural of a fantastic underwater scene or make a 3-D collage showing a seabed polluted by man.

Related films:

"Le Bleu Perdu" 7 minutes 30 seconds, color (106C 0272 039)

- An animated film envisaging the kind of world that children may inherit when the last bit of blue is blotted from the sky by the spreading mantle of smog.

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"Water, water, everywhere...." 4 minutes 45 seconds, color
(106C 0171 024)

- An underwater close-up of the death of a fish in polluted water.

"The Garbage Movie" 23 minutes 27 seconds, color (106C 0180 068)

- A class project investigates garbage - its composition, its disposal and its impact on the environment.

"What on Earth!" 9 minutes 35 seconds, color (106C 0166 033)

- A film which confirms what many earthlings have long feared -- it is the automobile that has inherited the earth!