

A Chairy Tale

Teacher's Guide

Ages: 9 to 12

Running time: 9:52

A chair comes to life and protests its situation, refusing to allow a man to sit down on it. The man sets about trying to tame the chair. In the end, they establish a friendship. A film without words by legendary animator Norman McLaren.

Pre-Viewing

No pre-viewing activities are necessary.

Post-Viewing

Language Arts

Developing oral and written communication.

- Re-tell the key points of the film's story.
- Describe the ways in which the chair demonstrates pleasure or displeasure when it comes into contact with the man.
- Write a dialogue between the chair and the man.
- Write a first-person composition from the point of view of the chair, describing your reactions to the man's behaviour.

Visual Arts

Depicting people and familiar objects.

- Draw several different types of people and the kinds of chairs they might sit in.
- Draw a circus number in which a chair is used.
- Use play dough to show people sitting in different types of chairs.

Drama

Improvise a dialogue or a story.

- Imagine a familiar object with unusual expectations. Demonstrate these expectations by improvising a short play made up entirely of gestures.
- Come up with a dialogue between a child and an object, and then perform it.
- Ascribe various characteristics to a chair, and demonstrate them through improvised actions:
 - the most valuable chair in the world
 - a heavy chair that is hard to carry

- a very comfortable chair
- a vibrating chair
- Each member of the group sits in a chair. Every time a signal sounds, everyone changes their sitting position. How many different positions for sitting in a chair can the group come up with?
- Prepare a living sculpture in which people sit in different positions.

Guidance: Interpersonal Relations

Recognizing that in relationships, each person reacts to the behaviour of the other.

- Identify the methods the man uses to discover the chair's expectations.
- Find parallels between the communication problems faced by the two characters in the film and those faced by yourself and people you know.
- Share different ways in which communication between people can be improved.