

## Children Speak User's Guide

**Ages: 5 to 8**

**Running time: 9:18**

*"I died once... and I came back when I was in my mommy's tummy."  
"Mother Nature and God, I think they're married..."*

### Synopsis

Using the words of children ages five to seven, this short animated film opens a window onto what children think about the big questions: birth, death, God, nature and the universe. They discuss difficult subjects like grief and mortality with insight and humour. **Children Speak** is ideal for use as a discussion-starter with children ages five to eight, or with adults interested in child development. Please note that while the children express a variety of views, these views are rooted in the Judeo-Christian tradition.

### Film Background

Co-director Bozena Heczko was inspired to make **Children Speak** when conversations with her young grandson provided her with solace after a death in the family. She came to realize that children could offer fresh insight into the grieving process, and set out to hear their views on the subject. She and Georgina Strathy used cel animation and mixed media to create the film's images.

### Questions for Discussion

- The children in the film offer their own views on a variety of topics. What did they talk about? What do you think about their ideas? What are your ideas on these subjects?
- Has anyone close to you died? How did you feel when it happened? What can you do to deal with these feelings?
- Do you have little brothers or sisters, or know any babies? How did you feel when they were born? Have your feelings changed since then?
- Where do the children in the film say babies come from? What do you think about their ideas?
- How do you imagine the world when it was new? How was it created? How has it changed? What do you think it will be like in the future?
- What do you think happens after someone dies?