



**ABOUT THE FILM**

In the '70s, three rebellious teenage daughters, a restless mother, a father struggling with potatoes, and maybe some elephants, find themselves in bustling Nairobi. The family will never be the same. Created by Oscar®-winning animator Torill Kove (*The Danish Poet*), *Maybe Elephants* is a playful and loving autobiographical homage to family, adolescence and the therapeutic power of memories, however unreliable.

**Content warning:**

- Reference to mental health and well-being [01:35, 06:30, 13:30]
- Depiction of unlawful activity (unsafe conduct in motor vehicle) [05:39]
- Depiction of substance use (smoking) [09:01]

**Film length:**  
17 min

**Recommended ages:**  
12–15 years old

**School subjects:**  
Family Studies,  
Health/Personal  
Development,

**Keywords:**  
personal growth,  
mental health, well-  
being,  
happiness,  
independence,  
adolescence,  
memory

**Watch:** [www.nfb.ca/film/maybe-elephants/](http://www.nfb.ca/film/maybe-elephants/)

**Licence:** info@nfb.ca

**DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**

**BEFORE VIEWING THE FILM**

- What childhood memories do you have that still impact you today?
- Do you think other members of your family remember your shared experiences the same way you do? Why or why not?

**AFTER VIEWING THE FILM**

- How was the family’s life in Norway similar or different from their life in Kenya?
- What were the big moments in the film that really changed who the characters were and how they felt about each other?

**FILM VIEWING WORKSHEET - ANSWER KEY****1. Describe at least 3 activities that the sisters took part in as kids in Norway. [01:02–01:15]**

Possible answers include:

Playing with friends at school, gymnastics, track and field, horseback riding, cultural events such as parades, exploring parks and forests.

**2. What description and visual metaphor is used to depict the mother's challenges with her mental health? [01:35–01:50, 06:30–6:45, 13:30–13:35]**

A grey, bubble-like cloud that would envelop her, or float above her, and make her restless and distant.

**3. What outdoor adventure does the family embark on in Kenya? [06:40–7:10]**

They embark on a safari and family camping trip.

**4. Does the family leave Kenya? If so, where do they go? [12:30–12:40]**

Yes, they return to their home in Norway.

**5. Describe the visual metaphor used to show the journey of the 3 sisters from childhood to adulthood. [14:45–15:05]**

A road map of straight, solid, broken and curved lines radiating outwards from the centre to several, unknown destinations.

**Resource created in collaboration with:**

Asif-Aly Penwala – High School teacher, British Columbia, CA. 2025.



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Once the film is over, answer one of the following questions.

1. Describe a family trip or experience that changed your perspective or your family dynamic.
2. The memory of the elephants at the campsite is questioned in the film. Explain how memories can still be meaningful even if they might not be accurate.

## PROJECT IDEA

**Memory life map:** Create a map or timeline of 3-4 key memories or events in your life.

Add a symbol and a short description of how each memory changed your life in a significant way.

