

MVFF EDUCATION



SHORTS: ¡Viva El Cine Infantil!



STUDENT ACTIVITY HANDOUTS IN ENGLISH

CURRICULUM GUIDE
GRADES: 1-6

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Dear Educators,

Thank you for attending the 46th Annual Mill Valley Film Festival screening of the shorts collection ¡Viva El Cine Infantil!

This year, our MVFF Education film selections continue to focus on increasingly relevant issues of global empathy and active citizenship, and we believe the short films will be fun and engaging texts to use in your classroom. These curricular materials are designed to get students to engage deeply with film by the common-core aligned skills of developing an evidence-based interpretation of a text.

The discussion questions on the following page offer a variety of options for fostering small-group or whole-class dialogue. Individual handouts for before and after viewing are provided as stand-alone activities to be used individually or in sequence, with a particular emphasis on social-emotional learning. We have also included a handout that provides some context for the film festival experience, which may help to introduce your screening experience.

Thank you so much for your tireless work!

Sincerely,

The CAFILM Education Team

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Which film do you think had the most unique story? What was the story?
2. Which film had the most unique visual style? What was unique about it? How did the visual style enhance the story?
3. Who do you think was the most memorable character from these films? Who was the most relatable character from these films? Why?
4. How are these films connected? What are some of the universal themes these films share in common?
5. What did you learn about LatinX culture from watching these films?
6. How did the stories in the films represent a range of cultural values and beliefs?
7. How did the films celebrate the uniqueness of LatinX cultures?
8. What did you learn about the power of stories and storytelling from watching these films?

ABOUT CAFILM

The nonprofit California Film Institute celebrates and promotes film as art and education through year-round programming at the independent Christopher B. Smith Rafael Film Center, presentation of the acclaimed Mill Valley Film Festival and DocLands Documentary Film Festival, as well as cultivation of the next generation of filmmakers and audiences through CAFILM Education programs.

Follow the California Film Institute on social media



STANDARDS

Common Core State Standards ELA-Literacy

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.3.1

Ask and answer questions to demonstrate understanding of a text, referring explicitly to the text as the basis for the answers.

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.3.2

Recount stories, including fables, folktales, and myths from diverse cultures; determine the central message, lesson, or moral and explain how it is conveyed through key details in the text.

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.3.3

Describe characters in a story (e.g., their traits, motivations, or feelings) and explain how their actions contribute to the sequence of events.

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.3.1

Write opinion pieces on topics or texts, supporting a point of view with reasons.



SHORTS:

¡Viva El Cine Infantil!



ABOUT THE FILMS

As part of MVFF's ¡Viva el cine! programming, we invite younger viewers to join in our annual celebration of Spanish-language and LatinX films, stories, and storytellers with this festive collection of kid-centric animated and narrative short films.

Key Themes: Animation, LatinX Culture, Storytelling, SEL

ABOUT THE FILMS

El Moño

Luis Fernando Puente & Lizde Arias | US 2022 | 8 min

After her favorite sock goes missing, Andrea learns some family magic that helps her find lost objects in the most unexpected way.

Cleo & Nina

Manrique Cortés Castro | Costa Rica 2021 | 2 min

This animated documentary brings to life a phone call between five-year-old Sara and her grandmother Nina with a story about Nina's childhood pet pig and an itchy dress.

The Dance (*El baile*)

Pedro Pablo Vega Reyes, Colombia 2021 | 15 min

Andrés gets invited to the school dance by the girl he likes, but there's one problem: his shoe has a hole in it. With only a day left, Andrés must find a way to fix his shoe and impress his crush.

Mist (*Niebla*)

Leonardo Romero Zarza | Colombia 2020 | 10 min

When Nicolas and his family move from the city to a new house next to a forest, his perception of his new environment starts to change when he begins to have mysterious encounters with native animals.

The Piñata

Verónica Ramírez | Mexico 2021 | 13 min

Seven-year-old Lorena is determined to win the school's piñata contest and its coveted grand prize: a new bicycle.

With a Wool Ball (*Con un ovillo de lana*)

Belén Ricardesi | Argentina 2022 | 5 min

Told through stop-motion animation made from wool, a girl from the northwestern hills of Argentina spends the cold winters in a hut, knitting ponchos made of wool for her friends, the native animals that live around her.

Under the Same Sky

Ana Laura Calderón | Mexico 2023 | 15 min

Andrea and Marina become fast friends while playing on the rooftops of their adjacent buildings during the pandemic in Mexico City.

La Calesita

Augusto Schillaci | Argentina 2022 | 10 min

An animated tribute to the beloved Argentinian merry-go-round operators who have dedicated their lives to providing fun and happiness to children and their communities.

Note: La Calesita will not be included in the online screening of this program.

BEFORE THINKING SEE, THINK, WONDER

Directions:

Before watching the films in this collection, take a look at some images from the films. Make some observations and thoughtful interpretations about what you see, what you think, and what you are wondering about before viewing.



SEE What observations can you make by looking at these images?	THINK What thoughtful interpretations can you make by looking at these images?	WONDER What are you curious about?

DURING VIEWING NOTEATCHER

Directions:

The collection of shorts you will see are all films that celebrate Spanish-language and LatinX films and the magic of storytelling. Use this notecatcher to keep track of the films so you will be able to dig a little deeper later. After each film, write a one-sentence summary of the story in your own words. Then, use six words to record your personal review of the film.

Film Title	Director(s)	One-Sentence Summary	Six-Word Review
El Moño	Luis Fernando Puentes & Lizde Arias		
Cleo & Nina	Manrique Cortez Castro		
The Dance (El baile)	Pedro Pablo Vega Reyes		
Mist (Niebla)	Leonardo Romero Zarza		

DURING VIEWING NOTEATCHER

Film Title	Director(s)	One-Sentence Summary	Six-Word Review
The Piñata	Veronica Ramirez		
With a Wool Ball (Con un ovillo de lana)	Belen Ricardes		
Under the Same Sky	Anna Laura Calderon		
La Calesita	Augusto Schillaci		

AFTER VIEWING

SEE, THINK, ME, WE

Directions:

The films in this collection are all kid-centric and celebrate Spanish-language and LatinX culture and storytelling. After watching all of the films, select one to dig into a little deeper. Think about how the story in the film reminds you of something in your own life. First, write a short summary of the story featured in the film. Then, use the graphic organizer to record your ideas about the bigger picture.

Film:	Director(s):
Summary of the Story:	

SEE

What did you notice while you were watching the film? What observations did you make?

THINK

What thoughts do you have about the film?

ME

What connections can you make between you and the story in the film?

WE

How is the film connected to bigger stories about the world and our place in it?

AFTER VIEWING RESPONSE QUESTIONS

Directions:

Respond to each question, using details from the movies in the program.

1. Of all the films featured in the program, which one was your personal favorite? Why?

2. Did any of the films remind you of something that happened in your own life or that you have seen happen to others?

3. How do the stories in these films help us make sense of the world around us and the people around us?

4. How do the stories in these films represent our collective hopes and fears?

5. Which of these films would you like to see expanded into a feature-length film? In other words, which of the stories would you want to see more of?

EXTENSION ACTIVITY

FILM REVIEW

Directions:

After watching all the films in this collection of shorts, select one and write a review of the film. Use the graphic organizer to include all the details you remember from the film. Then, put it all together in one page of writing.

Film Title & Director:	Genre:
Characters:	Setting:
Plot: 6-8 Sentence Summary:	My Favorite Part:
Central Theme or Lesson Learned:	
Film Rating and Recommendation: Would you recommend this film to a friend? Why or why not?	

DISCUSSION NOTECATCHER

Directions: Use this notecatcher to record what you take away from discussing the questions above.

Ideas I Heard During Discussion	Mind-Pop Ideas Ideas that came to my mind during discussion.

One Important Thing I Learned During Discussion.

ABOUT FILM FESTIVALS



An opening night screening at the Mill Valley Film Festival.

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What is a film festival?

A film festival is an event in which multiple movies are presented over the course of one or several days. Depending on the size of the festival, all of the screenings may take place in a single theater or may involve multiple venues throughout a city. Festivals also include special events like panel discussions with filmmakers and actors. Typically, filmmakers submit their works to a festival, where a team of curators selects the best entries for inclusion in the festival. For independent and international filmmakers, festivals are often an important way to raise awareness of a film, generate an audience, and/or attract a studio to purchase the rights to distribute a film in a wider release. Acceptance into a major festival can add significant prestige to a film, with some festival awards (such as the Cannes Film Festival's Palme d'Or) considered among the highest honors a film can receive.

There are many film festivals through-

out the world, with some focusing on particular themes, such as highlighting LGBTQ films/filmmakers, specific cultural groups, or particular genres. While some of the more famous festivals may be in distant locations, there are hundreds of small festivals spread through every corner of the world and, increasingly, festivals are using streaming access to make it easier for the public to view their curated programs.

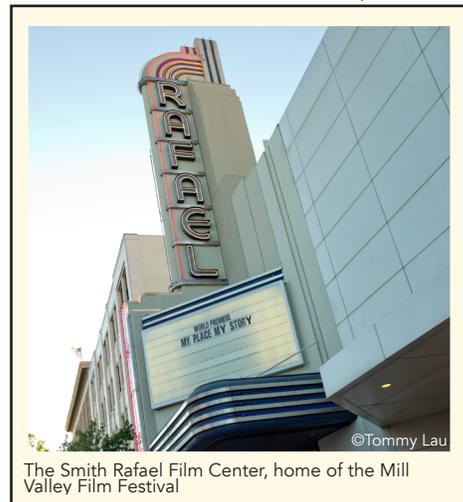
History of the Mill Valley Film Festival

Since founding the Mill Valley Film Festival in 1977, Executive Director Mark Fishkin has shepherded this once small, three-day showcase into an eleven-day, internationally acclaimed cinema event presenting a wide variety of new films from around the world in an engaged, community setting.

The festival has an impressive track record of launching new films and new filmmakers, and has earned a reputation as a filmmakers' festival

by celebrating the best in American independent and foreign films, alongside high-profile and prestigious award contenders. The relaxed and non-competitive atmosphere surrounding MVFF, gives filmmakers and audiences alike the opportunity to share their work and experiences in a collaborative and convivial setting.

Each year the festival welcomes more than 200 filmmakers, representing more than 50 countries. Screening sections include world cinema, US cinema, documentaries, family films, and shorts programs. Annual festival initiatives include Active Cinema, a forum for films that aim to engage audiences and transform ideas into action; Mind the Gap, a platform for inclusion and equity; and ¡Viva el Cine!, a showcase of Latin American and Spanish-language films.. Festival guests also enjoy an exciting selection of Tributes, Spotlights and Galas throughout the program.



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The Smith Rafael Film Center, home of the Mill Valley Film Festival

Questions to Consider:

1. What is the purpose of a film festival? What are the benefits for filmmakers? For the audience? For the community?
2. How might the films at a festival differ from the films available to watch at your local movie theater?
3. What qualities do you think festival curators might look for in a film? If you are watching a festival film with a class/school group, what aspects of the film do you think made it appealing to the curators?

Get Involved!

Many film festivals, including the Mill Valley Film Festival, have student film categories. If you are a filmmaker, explore FilmFreeway (www.filmfreeway.com) for a database of worldwide film festivals where you can submit your film. The call for entries for MVFF opens in late February and closes in June. Youth filmmakers do not have to pay an entry fee. MVFF also offers many opportunities for volunteering. Find out more at <https://www.cafilm.org/volunteer/>.