

MVFF EDUCATION



CURRICULUM GUIDE GRADES: 1-5

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Dear Educators,

Thank you for attending the 46th Annual Mill Valley Film Festival's screening of *Rosa and the Stone Troll*. We are excited to return in our 2023 fall season with a combination of both in-theater screenings for local schools and online screenings for those of you joining us from afar.

This year, our MVFF Education film selections continue to focus on increasingly relevant issues of global empathy and active citizenship, and we believe this film will be a powerful and engaging text 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. If your students are already familiar with a process of writing evidence-based interpretive essays, consider using the suggested essay prompts for a short writing piece. Additionally, 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. What lessons did you learn about the importance and the power of friendship from watching the film?
2. What did the film show about what it means to be lonely? How did it affect the different characters in different ways?
3. What does the film teach us about finding the courage to face your fears? Why is it important to be brave when you're scared?
4. What experiences from your own life did the film make you think about?
5. Which character from the film are you most similar to? Which character from the film are you most different from? How?



ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

The Roselil Series by Josefine Ottesen

https://www.josefineottesen.eu/?Books:Fables:The_Roselil_series

More about the prize-winning Danish author and the Roselil series of children's books including easy readers.

The Monomyth of the Hero's Journey

<https://thekidshouldseethis.com/post/the-monomyth-of-the-heros-journey>

TKSST: The Kid Should See This - smart videos for curious minds of all ages.

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.

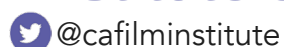
CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.3.1

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

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





ABOUT THE FILM

Swoop into Summerland, a magical forest where adventure awaits a timid flower fairy who's about to discover her first true friend—and the courage she never knew she had. Good-hearted Rosa joyfully tends wildflowers with her magic wand, but she longs for companionship. When she meets Silk, a curious, fearless butterfly, the two become inseparable. But soon Rosa and Silk, along with some pie-loving mice, a shimmering Elf King, a wise old owl, and a wisecracking troll, uncover a perilous mystery that leads to a dangerous confrontation with an evil Stone Troll. Rosa must find a way to put her fears aside and save the day. With friendship as her guiding light, she surprises even herself by opening her heart to all the possibilities within and around her. This sweet delight features lush animation, giggly humor, and a heartwarming message for us all.

ABOUT THE FILMMAKER KARLA NOR HOLMBÄCK

Karla Nor Holmbäck is an animation director who graduated from The National Filmschool of Denmark in 2018. At the Filmschool, she worked with children's content in the form of television series, computer games, and world-building. Holmbäck's work spans many platforms and media; beside films she works as an illustrator of children's books and in 2020 debuted as author at Denmark's largest publishing company Gyldendal. Her films, stories and universes are poetic and tactile with a strong graphic expression that invites children into a magical and playful world.



FILMMAKER'S STATEMENT

As a child, my dad read aloud from the Rosa books, and the amazing universe has followed me ever since. I still today want to live in Summerland with Rosa and her friends, sleep in the rose bush, eat blueberry pie with the mice, and dance with the elves that twinkle like silver in the night. With *Rosa and the Stone Troll*, I wanted to create an adventurous film about friendship—about how we each try to fit into the community based on our individual prerequisites and challenges. And about how, in our fear of loneliness, we will do everything to fit into the community, as when Rosa proposes to marry the mouse Karl Gustav, even though it is not at all what she dreams of.

Friendships mean a lot to the youngest children. I remember myself how important it was; who were your friends, who could you trust and how did you deal with being jealous? I was looking everywhere for someone to mirror myself on, and when I think back to my 6-year-old self, I wish there had been a movie like *Rosa and the Stone Troll*. A film that depicts friendship for better or worse, about daring to throw yourself into the uncertain, being brave and following your dreams. I hope all the kids watching the movie will be as good friends with Rosa and Silk as I am.

BEFORE VIEWING JOURNAL ENTRY

Directions:

The act of writing helps us think about a topic. The film you are about to watch is a story of friendship, adventure, bravery, and heroism. Write about a time in your life when a friend helped you be brave, adventurous, or heroic.

DURING VIEWING STORY MAP

Directions:

A story map is a diagram that will help you think about the characters, setting, and events in a narrative. This will help you identify the themes in a film, or the lessons learned. While watching *Rosa and the Stone Troll*, fill out the chart below.

CHARACTERS

Who are the characters in the story?
What is their relationship to each other?

SETTING

Where does the story take place?
List all the places the characters go on their journey.

BEGINNING

What is the problem at the beginning of the story

MIDDLE

What are the challenges the characters face during the story?

END

How is the problem solved at the end of the story?

THEMES

Themes are not just a lesson for the characters in the story. Themes are meant to apply to real life.
What do you learn from watching this film?

AFTER VIEWING

SEE, THINK, ME, WE

Directions.

Rosa and the Stone Troll is a story of friendship, adventure, bravery, and heroism. Use this graphic organizer to dig a little deeper into what the film means and connect it to the bigger picture.

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?

A Thinking Routine Borrowed from Harvard Project Zero's Think Routine Toolbox:
<http://www.pz.harvard.edu/resources>

AFTER VIEWING RESPONSE QUESTIONS

Directions:

Respond to each question, using details from the movie.

1. What does Rosa do in Summerland? What does she dream about?

2. Why does the mouse, Karl Gustav, feel unwanted? What does Rosa offer to do for him? Why?

3. Who is Silk? How is she different from Rosa?

4. What causes Rosa to face her fears and set off toward the dark mountains and the sea?

5. What do the woodland creatures accomplish together as friends? How do they celebrate at the end of the film?

6. What little piece of the stone troll remains after she crumbles? How does this connect to one of the central themes of the film?

EXTENSION ACTIVITY STORYBOARD THE FILM

Rosa and the Stone Troll is about a little flower fairy who lives alone in her rose bush because she is too scared to leave, even though she dreams of having a friend. One day, the adventurous butterfly Silk crosses paths with Rosa and they become friends. Silk wants to go on adventures, and Rosa wants to stay in her safe bush. But when Silk is kidnaped by the evil Stone Troll, Rosa has to find the courage to set out on a dangerous journey to save her best friend.

Directions:

1. Create a storyboard of the journey.
2. Draw pictures that show what happens on the journey at the beginning, middle, and end of the adventure.
3. Write captions that match the pictures and describe what happens on the journey at the beginning, middle, and end of the adventure.

BEGINNING: What happens that leads to Rosa's adventure out of Summerland? Why does she decide to leave her rose bush?

Image:

Caption:

EXTENSION ACTIVITY STORYBOARD THE FILM

MIDDLE: What happens to Rosa on her adventure? Who does she meet along the way? What fears does she face? What challenges does she confront? What risks does she take?

Image:

Caption:

END: How does Rosa's adventure end? What does she learn? How does she change?

Image:

Caption:

ABOUT FILM FESTIVALS



An opening night screening at the Mill Valley Film Festival.

©Tommy Lau

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.



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/>.