

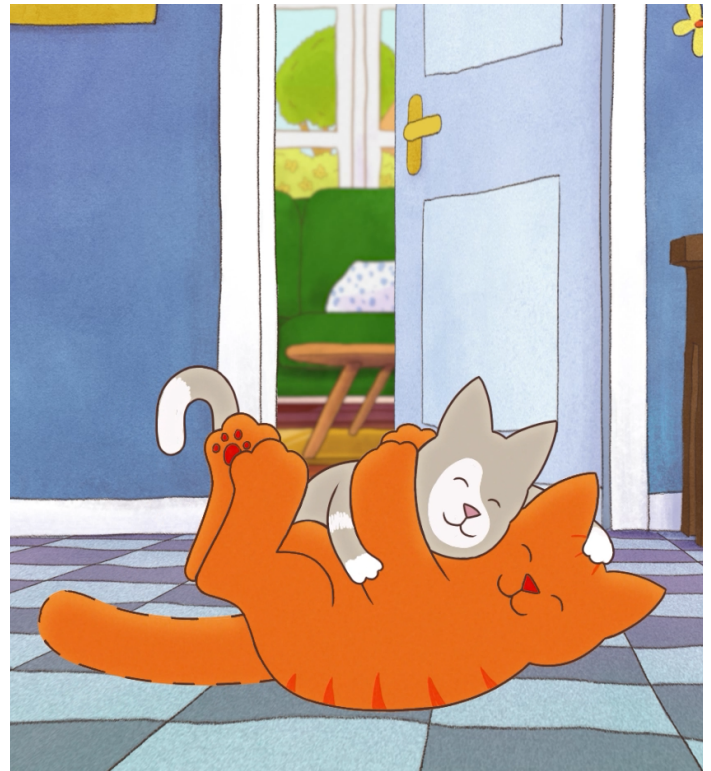
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Dear educators,

Thank you for attending the 47th Annual Mill Valley Film Festival's screening of *Tummy Tom and The Lost Teddy Bear*. We are excited to return in our 2024 fall season with a combination of both in-person screenings for local schools and online screenings for those of you joining us from afar

As media educators, we support film as the literature of the twenty-first century. This powerful medium sits in a critical part of human culture, at the intersection of art, industry, technology, and politics. It is a universal language that lets us tell stories about our collective hopes and fears and gives us the opportunity to make sense of the world around us and the people in it. This year, our film selections for school screenings 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 the film by the common-core aligned skills of developing an evidence-based interpretation of a text both orally and in writing.

The discussion prompts have been crafted to offer students the opportunity to grapple with questions of ethics and social justice through representations of culture in film. They offer a variety of options for fostering small-group or whole-class dialogue by addressing the film industry in general and this film in particular. 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, or consider the film review format as an alternative. Additionally, student handouts for a variety of thinking routines are provided for before, during, and after viewing the film with a particular emphasis on social-emotional learning. Extension activities offer further creative opportunities for students to consider the cultural impact of the film as both an art form and a political platform. We have also included a handout that provides some context for the film festival experience, which may help to introduce your screening experience.

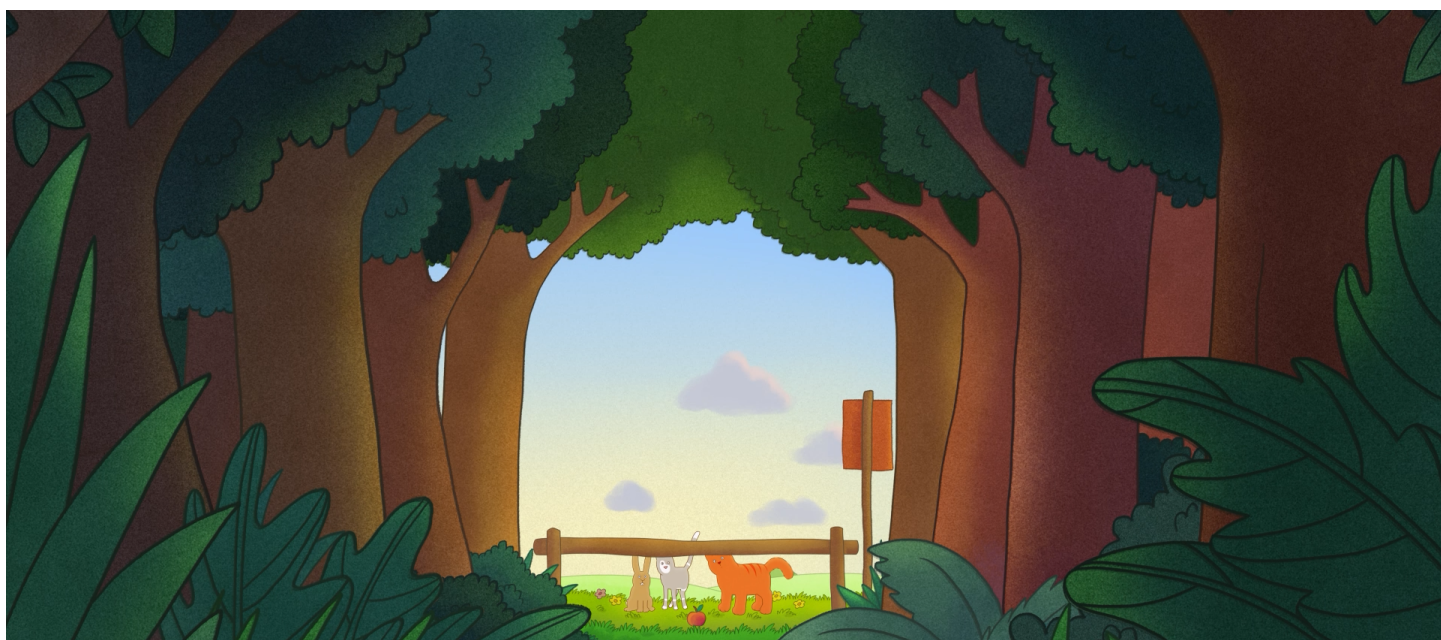
Thank you so much for your tireless work! Enjoy the film!

Sincerely,  
The CAFILM Education Team



# DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. *Tummy Tom and the Lost Teddy Bear* is a film that does not just entertain its viewers, it also contains life lessons and universal themes that resonate with many different people. What about the film most resonated with you?
2. What was the most powerful part of the story? What was the main idea or central message of the film?
3. How did the film make you feel? What emotions did you experience while viewing *Tummy Tom and the Lost Teddy Bear*?
4. What moments, characters, or ideas were especially memorable or impactful? How or why?
5. What experiences from your own life did the film make you think about?
6. What lessons did you learn about the importance and the power of friendship from watching the film?
7. What lessons did you learn about curiosity and the power of imagination from watching the film?
8. What does the film teach us about finding the courage to become the hero of your own story?
9. How can a wondrous day, full of adventure, seem almost endless? What happens to Tummy Tom and Cat Mouse that makes this day seem endless.
10. How does the unique animation style take the viewer on an adventure into a fantastical world and support the storytelling?



# 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

# INTERPRETIVE ESSAY PROMPTS

1. Tummy Tom and the Lost Teddy Bear is a film that shows how a wondrous day, full of adventures, can seem almost endless. Write an essay that shows how and why Tummy Tom's day with Cat Mouse seemed almost endless. Be sure to use specific details and examples from the film to support your writing.
2. Tummy Tom and the Lost Teddy Bear is a film that does not just entertain its viewers, it also contains valuable life lessons. Write an essay that shows what you learned from watching this film and how you learned it. Be sure to use specific details and examples from the film to support your writing.



## ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

### Erik Verkerk & Joost van den Bosch about Tummy Tom and the Lost Teddy Bear

<https://see-nl.com/artikel/20240610-erik-verkerk-joost-van-den-bosch-about-tummy-tom-and>

SEE NL talks to the Dutch directors about their animated 4-film series based on the much-loved children's books of Jet Boeke.

### Incredible Film

<https://incrediblefilm.com/en/movies/tummy-toms-teddybear-in-production/>

With his cinema debut, Tummy Tom joins the ranks of countless movie cats who have previously appeared on the silver screen. The enormous popularity of online cat videos fuels film producers' interest in the cat as a character! Now these movie cats are joined (or competed) by Tummy Tom.

### The Hero's Journey

<https://www.timeforkids.com/g56/the-heros-journey-g5/?rl=en-820>

Time for Kids: How can you start imagining your life as a hero's journey? Here, experts share some strategies.

## 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



@cafilm



@californiafilminstitute



@cafilminstitute



californiafilminstitute

# 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

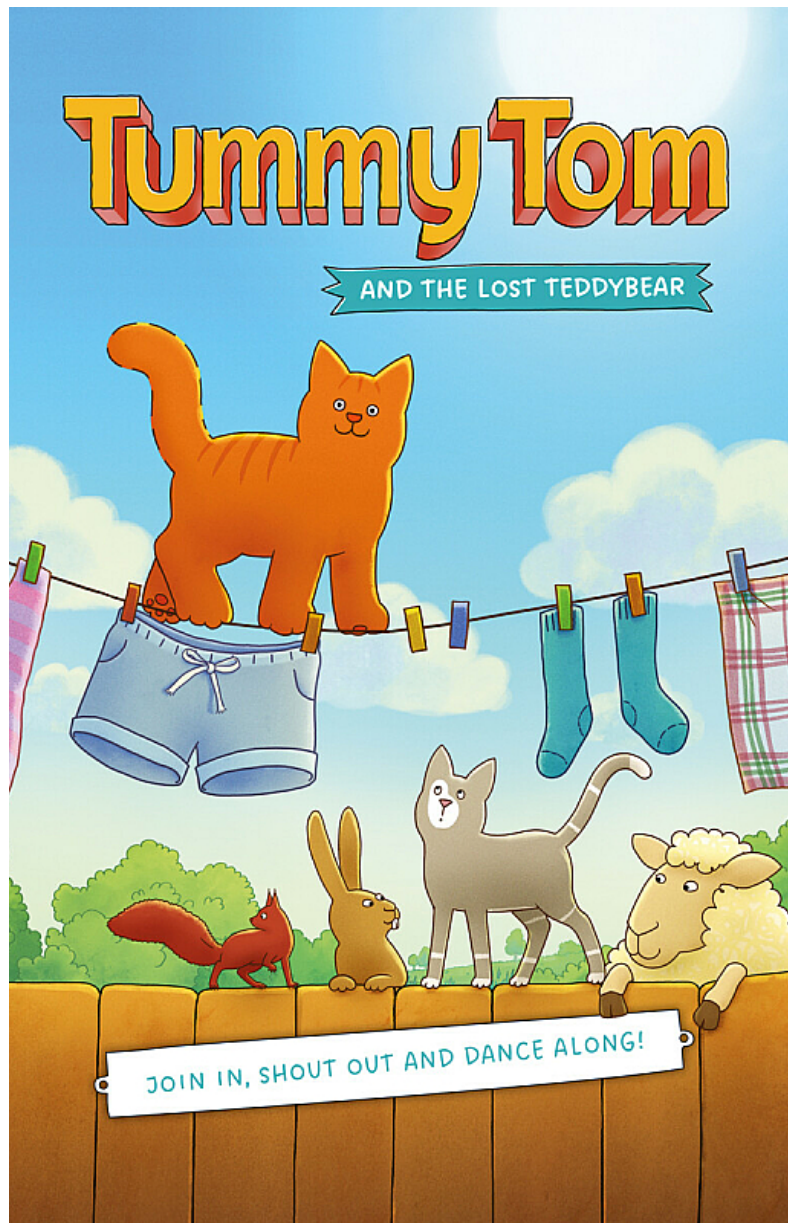
Describe characters in a story (e.g., their traits, motivations, or feelings) and explain how their actions contribute to the sequence of events.

### CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.3.1

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



Name: \_\_\_\_\_



## ABOUT THE FILM

Tummy Tom, a good-natured, well-intentioned and slightly gangly ginger cat, is a prime example of his species—he's curious, mischievous, a bit lazy, and most of all, he loves to curl up for catnaps with his favorite stuffed teddy. But one day, "cat-astrophe" strikes: Jumping into his basket for a snooze, he discovers Bear is missing! Luckily, his friend Cat Mouse is there to help, because Tummy Tom can't sleep without Bear. Many paws make light work, so they set off to find him and they have many exciting adventures on the way. An ordinary bed becomes a trampoline, and outside you can walk along the washing line like a proper acrobat. Together they discover new places, like the meadow and the beach, and they come across other animals they have never met before. After a day full of fun and adventures, everything turns out alright in the end. They have not just found Bear, but they have also found lots of new friends along the way.



## ABOUT THE FILMMAKER

### JOOST VAN DEN BOSCH

Directors Joost van den Bosch (1980) and Erik Verkerk (1984) have a wealth of experience with productions for (young) children. With their Rotterdam (Netherlands) animation studio Ka-Ching Cartoons, they have realized several award-winning productions, including “GEORGE & PAUL” (2017) and “INKT” (2021), which were shown at leading festivals such as Clermont Ferrand, Annecy, London, and Toronto. Joost and Erik met during their animation studies at the Willem de Kooning Academy in Rotterdam and graduated cum laude with their joint project. After their studies, the duo worked for a year at the prestigious ‘Cartoon Saloon’ in Ireland, after which they founded their own studio ‘Ka-Ching Cartoons’ in 2007. They quickly developed their own formats for series such as ‘George & Paul’ and ‘the 3D-Machine,’ but also created and directed series for the Dutch theme park The Efteling, such as ‘de Grobbebollen maken Lol’ and ‘de Lummels.’ Their focus then shifted to longer films, and they directed the very first animated Dutch tv-movie ‘de Tand des Tijds’ and the feature film ‘Urbanus de Vuilnisheld.’ Currently, they alternate between long films and short films and series, and they are busy with the second Tummy Tom film, A New Friend for Tummy Tom.

## THE GENESIS OF THE STORY

Tummy Tom is a 45-year-old classic in the world of children’s books. Jet Boeke created her first Tummy Tom picture book for the television program Sesame Street. On March 3, 1978, Tummy Tom appeared on television for the first time. Since then, he has stolen the hearts of toddlers, preschoolers, and their parents and has become an integral part of Dutch culture. Publisher Gottmer released the first Tummy Tom book in 1983, and millions of books have been sold since. Almost every household in the Netherlands has at least one Tummy Tom book.

As one of the best-selling children’s book characters in The Netherlands and Belgium, Tummy Tom has enchanted many generations. Children who grew up with Tummy Tom read the well-known books to their own children years later. And it doesn’t end with books! For the first time, Tummy Tom shines on the big screen, taking the lead role in an adventurous feature film for the youngest audience.



# FILMMAKER'S STATEMENT

Tummy Tom is a timeless classic. We grew up with the books ourselves 35 years ago and nowadays, we read the stories to our own children. It is therefore a great honor and joy to have been working on a feature film of this famous cat for over four years.

But what makes Tummy Tom so captivating? It is precisely Jet Boeke's talent for writing stories that perfectly align with the world of young children. Tummy Tom is amazed by the small things around him. The short stories are about woodlice under a stone in the garden. Christmas cookies in the Christmas tree. Mail clattering through the mailbox. Things that no longer surprise us as adults but are very special for young children.

Burny Bos has skillfully captured these short adventures in a script. In the film, there is a central problem: Tummy Tom's teddy bear is lost! For the young audience, this is a significant and relatable problem. Who hasn't heard of desperate parents trying to buy a new version of a lost stuffed animal to comfort their child? A cuddly toy provides a child with a sense of security. It is an anchor. Without it, the world becomes a lot scarier. When Tummy Tom cannot find his Bear, he has to search further and further from home. The film is also about pushing your boundaries. If you really want something, you will have to do things that might be a bit scary at first.

Every time Tummy Tom goes to a new place to search for Bear, he has a new little adventure. He makes a mess of the sock basket. He chases a Rabbit through its burrow. He swings like an acrobat on the clothesline. Tummy Tom is constantly distracted. The world is still new to him, and he finds everything interesting. Just like a real toddler. To constantly engage our young audience throughout a film, we wanted to create an interactive movie. A film where the viewer is addressed by a narrator and asked to respond. Think, for example, of a puppet show. We wanted to capture that feeling. Another way to keep the children engaged is to include a song approximately every 5 minutes. And in that song, you can clap, jump, and sing along. This helps burn off some of the energy so they can concentrate on watching what Tummy Tom does next for another 5 minutes.

When translating a book into a film, you deal not only with the story but also with the visuals. You can go in any direction, for example, by making a flashy 3D movie. But that didn't feel right to us. The hand-drawn style of the books is iconic: the pencil lines, the ink, and the watercolor. That's what people recognize and have fond memories of. Therefore, we wanted to stay as close as possible to that style and capture the same feeling. Every background and every cat is lovingly hand-drawn by our team, frame by frame.

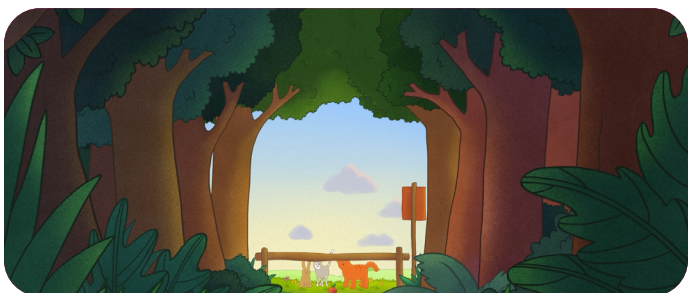
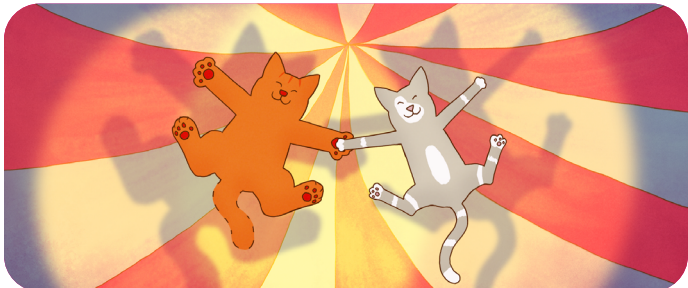
But before we animate the film, we create an animatic. In the animatic, we sketch out the film. We make rough drawings and record temporary voices to determine how all the shots should be and how long they should stay on screen. All the songs are also included as demos in this version. All the acting is determined, albeit in a rough form. If the jokes aren't funny now, they won't work in the final film either. If you don't empathize with Tummy Tom now, the film isn't what it should be yet.

# BEFORE VIEWING

## SEE, THINK, WONDER

### Directions:

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



<p><b>SEE</b></p> <p>What observations can you make by looking at these images?</p>	
<p><b>THINK</b></p> <p>What thoughtful interpretations can you make by looking at these images?</p>	
<p><b>WONDER</b></p> <p>What are you curious about?</p>	



## BEFORE VIEWING

### JOURNAL RESPONSE

**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 you were brave, adventurous, or heroic.

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

# DURING VIEWING

## STORY MAP

### How to Use this Thinking Routine:

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 *Tummy Tom and the Lost Teddy Bear*, 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?

# DURING VIEWING

## LIFE LESSONS

### How to Use this Thinking Routine:

Besides being entertaining, Tummy Tom and the Lost Teddy Bear offers viewers some valuable life lessons. Filmmakers use this engaging medium to entertain us with stories that impart values and wisdom that we can connect to our own life, or the world right now.

1. As you are viewing, identify some valuable life lessons you can take away from this story.
2. Use specific details and examples from the film to show how the film taught you this lesson.
3. Reflect on how each lesson you identify connects to your own life and the value it might have in the world right now.

Life Lesson What did you learn?	Details and Examples from the film that show how you learned this lesson.
How does this lesson connect to your own life? This could be something from your past, the present, or something you're thinking about for your future.	



# AFTER VIEWING RESPONSE QUESTIONS

**Directions:**

Respond to each question, referring to specific scenes, events, and dialogue from the film as evidence for your interpretation.

1. What is the mystery that begins the adventure for Tummy Tom and Cat Mouse? Are there any clues for them to follow?

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2. What does the clothesline in the garden become? How do Tummy Tom and Cat Mouse use their imaginations to have some fun?

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3. How does singing help Tummy Tom and Cat Mouse on their adventure? When do they sing? What are some of the things they sing about?

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4. What other animals do Tummy Tom and Cat Mouse meet on their quest to find the lost teddy bear?

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## AFTER VIEWING RESPONSE QUESTIONS

5. What different places do Tummy Tom and Cat Mouse venture into on their quest to find the lost teddy bear?

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6. Where do the friends finally find the lost teddy bear? What is different about the teddy bear? What do they do so Tummy Tom can sleep at the end of their adventurous day?

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# AFTER VIEWING

## SEE, THINK, ME, WE

### How to Use this Thinking Routine:

*Tummy Tom and the Lost Teddy Bear* 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:

<https://pz.harvard.edu/thinking-routines>

# EXTENSION ACTIVITY

## HERO'S JOURNEY

### Directions:

The Hero's Journey is a common storyline in books and movies. Tummy Tom and the Lost Teddy Bear is a classic Hero's Journey. Think about how Tummy Tom courageously ventured out of the garden and into the world, faced multiple challenges, and learned something along the way before returning home. Use the outline below to trace Tummy Tom's journey as the hero of his own story.

Answer the following questions to map Tummy Tom's heroic journey with Cat Mouse.

<b>1. ORDINARY WORLD</b> What is Tummy Tom's world like at the beginning of the story?	<b>2. Call to Adventure</b> What happens to prompt Tummy Tom to take a step into the adventure?
<b>12. Return with the Elixir</b> What knowledge or wisdom does Tummy Tom bring back with him?	<b>3. Refusal of the Call</b> Does Tummy Tom refuse to go? If so, why?
<b>11. Resurrection of the Hero</b> What is the final test for Tummy Tom?	<b>4. Meeting with the Mentor</b> Who helps Tummy Tom gain wisdom?
<b>10. The Road Back</b> How does Tummy Tom attempt to return to his normal life?	<b>5. Crossing the First Threshold</b> Where does Tummy Tom cross the point of no return in the story?
<b>9. Reward</b> What does Tummy Tom receive as a reward?	<b>6. Tests, Allies, and Enemies</b> How do the other characters affect Tummy Tom?
<b>8. Ordeal</b> What happens when the story reaches a life-or-death part?	<b>7. Approach</b> Does Tummy Tom try and fail? How so? What does he do when he fails?



# EXTENSION ACTIVITY

## STORYBOARD THE FILM

### Directions:

A film storyboard is a visual representation of a film's sequence of events created before production begins. Storyboards are a key tool for filmmakers to communicate their vision, and can help with many aspects of the production process. Recall the events in the film you just watched and create a storyboard that visually represents the film's sequence of events that are most important to the story.

The film follows the adventures of Tummy Tom, the ginger cat, and his friend Cat Mouse as they venture out from their familiar world in search of a lost teddy bear. Along the way they discover new places, meet new animals they have never met before, and have a day full of fun and adventures.

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

### Beginning

What happens that leads to Tummy Tom's adventures out of the garden? Why does he venture out into the world with Cat Mouse?

Image:

Caption:

# EXTENSION ACTIVITY

## STORYBOARD THE FILM

### MIDDLE

What happens to Tummy Tom and Cat Mouse on their adventure? Who do they meet along the way? What new things do they discover?

Image:

Caption:

### END

How does their adventure end? What happens when Tummy Tom and Cat Mouse return home? What have they learned? How have they changed?

Image:


Caption:

# EXTENSION ACTIVITY

## FILM REVIEW

### Directions:

A film review is a report that provides information about a film, expresses an opinion, and summarizes the main parts of the story. Use the template below to review and rate the film.

<b>Title:</b>	<b>Director:</b>
<b>Main Characters:</b>	
<b>Setting:</b>	
<b>Summary of the Story:</b>	
<b>Central Theme or Lesson Learned:</b>	
<b>What I liked:</b>	
<b>What I disliked:</b>	
<b>My Favorite Part:</b>	
<b>Movie Rating: Color in the Appropriate Number of Stars</b> 	
<b>Who would you recommend this movie to and why?</b>	

# ABOUT FILM FESTIVALS



An opening night screening at the Mill Valley Film Festival.

## 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.

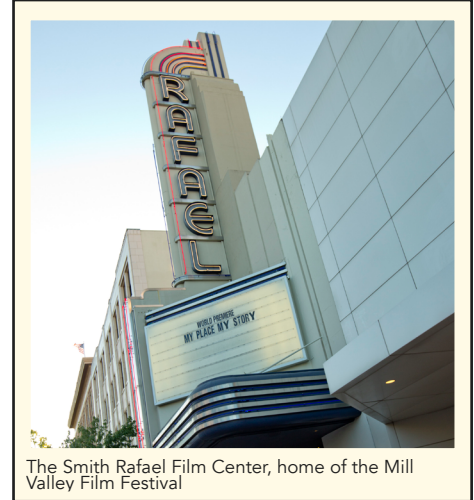
## History of the Mill Valley Film Festival

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](http://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/>.