



A BFI Education  
Essentials Resource

## Parental guide with key questions / discussion points for films on BFI Player (KS1)

### Juno Helps Out

Children's film / 1953 / 19mins

Helpful and humongous Great Dane Juno helps out with housework, does some shopping and chomps cream cake in this cheerful children's film.

<https://player.bfi.org.uk/free/film/watch-juno-helps-out-1953-online>

#### Questions:

1. Who do you think was the most helpful that day – Judith, Patrick or Juno? Or did they get all the jobs done because they worked as a team?
2. In all situations, there are always people who can help us. Why do people want to help? How does it make you feel when you are helping and why? Can you think of a time that you have helped somebody?
3. Juno is such a helpful dog. There are lots of jobs that animals can do to help us, do you know about any? (You could talk about/research assistance dogs, police dogs/horses, therapy pets etc.)

## Things to make or do:

1. Think of something you could do to help a grown up today, such as tidying up after yourself
2. Carry out an Act of Kindness and delight somebody with a thoughtful surprise. Why not practice a song or dance to perform for a grandparent, or make a card to brighten someone's day?
3. You could write positive messages or paint colourful pictures on stones to leave hidden in parks for others to find and pass on to spread kindness in your local area.
4. At the beginning of the film, Judith and Patrick were trying on the fancy dress outfits they were hoping to wear to the carnival. Put on your favourite fancy dress outfit or use a paper plate and some craft materials to make your very own carnival mask.
5. Judith, Patrick and Juno also rewarded their hard work with an afternoon tea party. Can you set one up for you and your toys or pets at home? Perhaps you could cut out some pretend food from magazines or adverts, or maybe even make a real cake with a grown up!

## Boy and the Cat

Animation & Artists Moving Image / 1976 / 10 mins

A boy and his cat make mischief in the snow at South Shields in this captivating hand-drawn children's animation created by Sheila Graber.

<https://player.bfi.org.uk/free/film/watch-boy-and-the-cat-1976-online>

### Questions:

1. What time of year, or season, does this story take place? How do you know? What is your favourite time of year and why?
2. Are the Boy and the Cat good friends or not? What do you know about their friendship?
3. Boy feels lots of different emotions throughout the film. Can you think of a moments that he was excited, cross, sad, frightened or happy? Can you show these emotions using your face or body language?

4. Cat is a very special pet to the Boy. Do you have a special pet? Why do you love them so much? If you don't have a pet, do you have a very special toy or object that means a lot to you?

### Things to make or do:

1. Design your own special animal friend, being as creative as you dare! It could be any animal, or even have special skills such as magical powers! Draw, paint or model your ideas using any art materials you have available.
2. Draw the Boy and the Cat having an adventure in a different season. Where would they go, what would they do, and would they cause any mischief?!
3. The soundtrack to this animation is mainly a musical score – there aren't many words spoken by the characters. If Cat was given a voice in the story, what sort of things would he or she be saying? Have a go at writing some speech bubbles for them.

## A Year and a Day

Nature & Science programme / 1954 / 14 mins / silent

The metamorphosis of the eating machine which is the caterpillar, into an Emperor Moth, revealed in all its detail.

<https://player.bfi.org.uk/free/film/watch-a-year-and-a-day-1954-online>

### Questions:

1. This film is all about changes as an animal grows. How have you changed from when you were baby to today? Can you think of 10 different ways you have changed? They could be physical things, behaviours that have changed or even your likes/dislikes that have altered over the years. How might you change in the future as you get older?

2. Can you describe the life cycle of any other animals?
3. This documentary is full of close-up shots – filmed zoomed in to its subject. Why is this? What other minibeasts might you be able to film in this way? Are there any minibeasts that would be difficult to film? (e.g. things that fly, fast moving etc.)

### Things to make or do:

1. Can you draw or make a model of the Emperor Moth's life cycle? Make sure you show the egg, caterpillar, the cocoon, and emerging adult moth. Or maybe you could act out the life cycle! Start curled up in a ball, then can you crawl like a caterpillar? How would you show making your cocoon? How could you move like the moth? Ask a grown up to watch you, guessing which part of the life cycle you are showing!
2. This documentary is silent, whereas most more recent nature programmes have somebody talking to explain the images being shown. This is called narration. Try watching the film again and narrating what you can see on the screen. You could research an expert, such as Sir David Attenborough, for inspiration.
3. Why not try to make your own wildlife documentary? You could photograph, film, or draw any creatures you can observe from your window, in a garden or park, or even use toy animals to create scenes inside! Add narration to help your audience learn from what you are showing them.