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12 Films of Christmas

Film Literacy Activities

Introduction

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Watching a film is a fun family activity, especially at Christmas – but why not try to keep the fun going after the film has ended? Once you've finished watching, have a go at one of the 12 film literacy activities in this slideshow to see how you can all get even more out of the film.

Try one a day throughout the Christmas holidays!

This resource was designed by Screen Scotland's Film Education team, and supported by Education Scotland, to help parents and their children to develop skills in film literacy, which supports reading, writing, listening and talking skills.

12 Films of Christmas

Pass the time waiting for Christmas Day to come by making a start on Screen Scotland's Christmas Film Bingo.

Can you get a vertical, horizontal or diagonal line? Can you watch them all to get Bingo?!

When you finish each film why not write a review or give it a star rating out of five and recommend it to a friend or family member?

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How many classic Christmas films can you watch over the holidays?
Can you complete a row across, down or diagonally? Or even the entire card?!

It's a Wonderful Life	Arthur Christmas	The Christmas Chronicles	White Christmas	Miracle on 34 th Street
Elf	Klaus	A Christmas Carol	Gremlins	Noel
The Polar Express	The Snowman	Home Alone	Father Christmas	The Santa Clause
Santa Claus: The Movie	Nativity!	Holiday Inn	Scrooged	Noelle
How the Grinch Stole Christmas	The Nativity Story	National Lampoon's Christmas Vacation	Jack Frost	The Muppet Christmas Carol

Share your progress with us on Twitter @FilmEdScSc with the hashtag #ChristmasFilmBingo

CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY
FILM BINGO

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A Christmas Carol

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There have been many different versions of Charles Dickens' classic novel 'A Christmas Carol', from 'Scrooge' to 'The Muppets Christmas Carol'.

Try to watch two or three of them. Which one do you think is the best? Why? Maybe you could even read the novel or listen to the audiobook and compare it to that...



Christmas Song Stories

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Films have been made based on hit Christmas songs: 'Last Christmas' and 'All I Want for Christmas is You'

Choose a Christmas song. What story could you build around the song?

Turn your idea into a short story, or make a children's storybook, or even make it into a film!

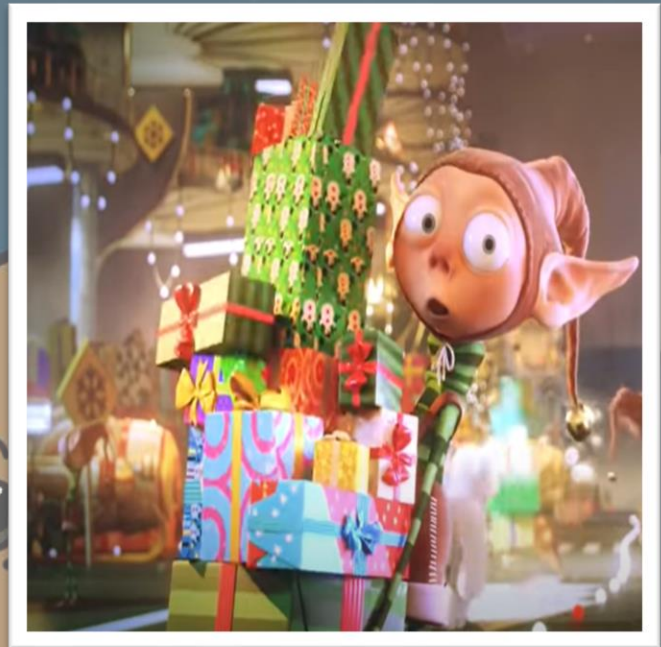


The Gift

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Watch 'The Gift': [The Gift - Animated Short Film 2018 - Manor – YouTube](#)

Imagine being one of Santa's elves: what kind of work might you have to do? You might want to design your own wrapping paper, draw a picture of what you would like for Christmas or even draw some unusually shaped presents and ask someone at home to guess what might be inside.



Gremlins

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Full of wicked little monsters who create chaos in a small town, 'Gremlins' isn't your typical Christmas film, and definitely one for the over-12s – but it is great fun! And the puppetry is fantastic.

Make a film about a Christmas gone wrong – but make sure there is a happy ending! You could even gather up some toys and use puppets for it!



Hey Deer!

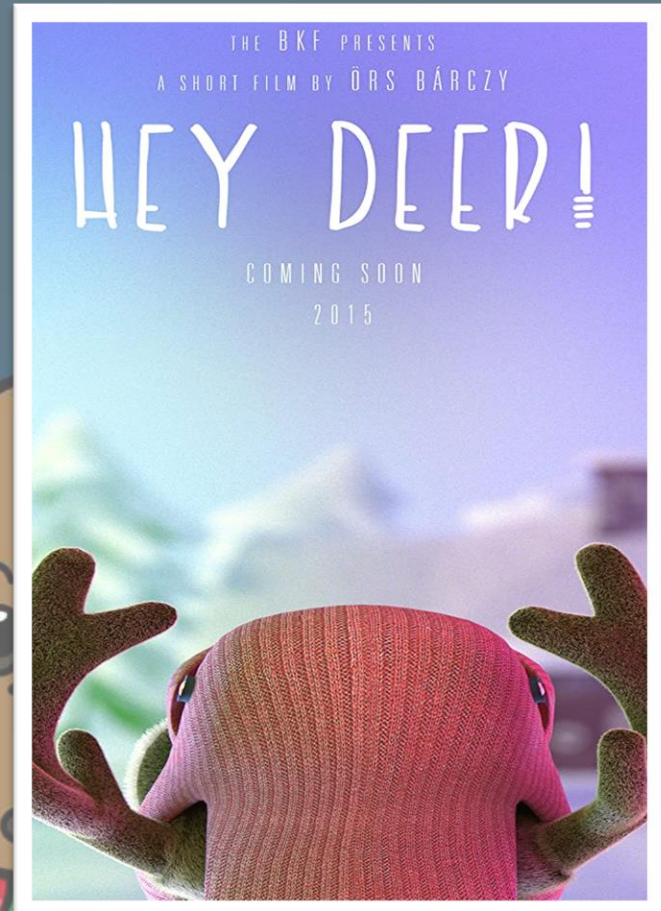
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Watch 'Hey Deer!':

<https://vimeo.com/245450925>

Make your own snow globe. You could use an old jar, some small toys and make some teeny tiny paper snowflakes.

The BBC reported that Scottish people have 421 words for snow: [Scots 'have 421 words' for snow - BBC News](#). Think of as many as you can and even try to put them in alphabetical order.



Home Alone

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When left home alone, Kevin's one wish is actually to have his family come home for Christmas.

What would be your one Christmas wish for yourself? What about for the world?

Make a gorgeous poster for your one Christmas wish and post it on a window for everyone to see – maybe it will come true!

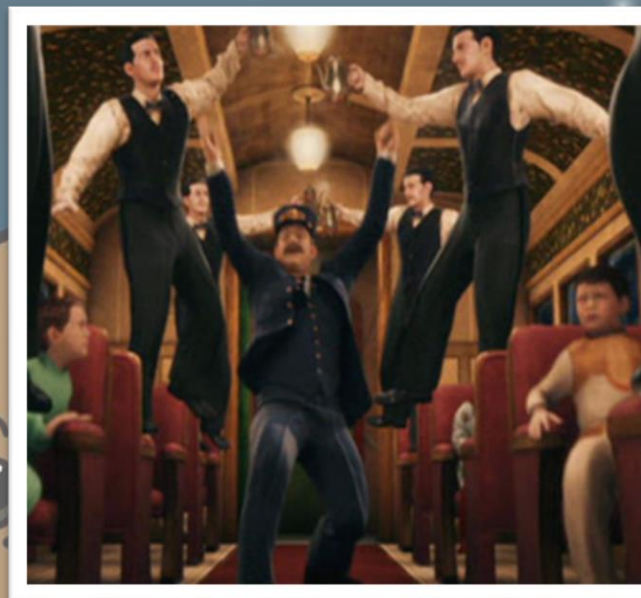


Hot Chocolate!

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One of the most joyful moments in 'The Polar Express' is the 'Hot Chocolate' song.

Gather everything you need to make the world's best hot chocolate, or create your own "recipe" for a Christmassy hot chocolate (does it contain candy canes or magic reindeer dust?) Film a cookery show showing or explaining how to make it.



It's a Wonderful Life

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'It's a Wonderful Life' is such a classic Christmas film that you often see characters watching it in other Christmas films!

Watch this classic story of a man realising how much value his life has. Make a poster featuring all the things you are grateful for. Or write a letter to a person who makes your life wonderful!



Santa's New Sleigh

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In 'Arthur Christmas', Steve Christmas loves his new sleek sleigh – the S-1. He thinks a much better solution to the needs of a 21st century Christmas.

Draw a picture of a new, highly modern sleigh for Santa, both the inside and outside. Or grab some Lego or household junk (boxes, toilet roll holders, etc.) and make a model of it.



A True Christmas Film

What does a film have to include to be described as a Christmas film?

Think about characters, settings, storylines and themes (messages) that you would usually find in a Christmas film.

How does your favourite Christmas film measure up? Can you use the list to make a true Christmas film yourself?

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Who is Santa Claus?

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Watch a film about being Santa Claus, such as 'Miracle on 34th Street', 'Klaus', 'Noelle' 'Arthur Christmas' or 'The Santa Clause'.

Draw a picture of what you think Santa Claus should look like.

Write on the picture words to describe the kind of person Santa Claus has to be.





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Credits

Resource developed by Gail Robertson on behalf of Screen Scotland.

For more information on Film Education resources and opportunities, go to [Home | Screen Scotland.](#)