



ACID RAIN

Set in a pastel world on a rainy summer's day, this quixotic animation film unveils the artless and magical thinking of a carefree little girl. As in award-winning sean o huigin's poem, on which the film is based, this tiny heroine loves to walk and splash in the rain. She has also heard of "acid rain," and so her young mind concocts fantastic images of what that phrase means.

There is no polished artifice in this spirited child's imaginings! Shoes and socks dissolve, ears, hair and eyebrows are washed off by the rain, even teeth float away, and, when she opens her mouth to cough, her jaw literally drops.

Viewers will delight in the gross comic detail. While far from a factual treatment of acid rain, this amusing film can inspire various activities in art, literature and film studies classes, and, as well, serve as a whimsical introduction to the problem.

About the poet: One of Canada's best-selling children's authors, sean o huigin won the Canada Council Children's Literature Award in 1984, is a leading experimental poet, a dynamic guest teacher and workshop leader. For o huigin, poetry is "the highest use of language" and a natural medium through which to teach kids a love and enjoyment of words.

o huigin is perhaps best known and loved for his "scary" poems, many of which are compiled in his most popular book, *Scary Poems for Rotten Kids* (Windsor: Black Moss Press, 1982). *Acid Rain* is drawn from this book of poetry.

Audiences: Senior elementary,
Junior high school

Subject Areas: Art; creative writing;
children's literature;
film studies;
environment studies.

Poem by

sean o huigin
from the book
Scary Poems for Rotten Kids

Animation

Bozenna Heczko

Music

Eldon Rathburn

Voice

Karen Marginson

Animation Camera

Robin Bain

Music Recordist

Louis Hone

Effects Editor

Bernard Bordeleau

Studio Administrator

Tamara Lynch

Carol Smith

Producer

Wolf Koenig

Executive Producer

Douglas MacDonald

Produced and distributed by the
National Film Board of Canada

Color

Screening time:

4 minutes 23 seconds

35 mm: 105C 0186 100

16 mm: 106C 0186 100

3/4": 116C 0186 100

VHS: 113C 0186 100

Beta: 114C 0186 100

Suggestions for use:

- 1 Find a poem or story you like and prepare illustrations for it.
- 2 Study the poet's use of words and compare his usage with the filmmaker's use of images. Do you feel the filmmaker's adaptation successfully communicates what the poet wished to convey?
- 3 Study both the poem and the film, then discuss the central factors one has to consider in transforming a finished work into another medium. What approaches might another filmmaker have taken?
- 4 Choose two or three sequences from the film and study them frame by frame. Discuss the filmmaker's animation techniques.
- 5 Research the real consequences of acid rain. You may wish to use the more informative NFB films *Acid From Heaven* and/or *Acid Rain: Requiem or Recovery* as part of your research.



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