

The Sniffing Bear Study Guide

Ages: 9 to 12

Running time: 7:47

DESCRIPTION

Bear sniffs gasoline fumes, over and over again. He just can't stop. Fortunately, his friends Seal and Owl watch over him.

This powerful animated film without words uses the Arctic landscape and the traditional Inuit characters of the Bear, the Seal and the Owl to raise young people's awareness about the harmful effects that substance abuse represents. A strong discussion-starter that also includes a message on some positive aspects of peer pressure.

NOTE: Because this film deals with a very sensitive subject — substance abuse among youth — please preview before use and make sure sessions are moderated by a knowledgeable facilitator.

Pre-Viewing

Ask the students to discuss their views on smoking, alcohol and drug use.

Post-Viewing

Guidance: Health Education

Analyzing the advantages and disadvantages of tobacco, alcohol and drug use.

- Identify the different feelings that Bear has at the beginning, middle and end of the film.
- Identify the emotions that Seal and Owl feel at the beginning, middle and end of the film.
- Give the reasons why Bear stopped sniffing gas.
- Give different reasons why young people should refuse to take drugs.
- Describe an incident in which you were urged to use drugs, tobacco or alcohol.
- Describe an incident in which you were prevented from using them.
- Compare your behaviour to that of Bear.
- Evaluate whether or not any of the advantages of drug or alcohol use outweigh the disadvantages.
- Based on your own personal knowledge and feelings, what is your position on drug abuse?

Language Arts

Developing oral and written communication.

- Choose one of the film's segments and write a brief dialogue between the characters.

Visual Arts

Depicting yourself in a situation and acting it out with others.

- Recreate the story in the film, but with people instead of animals. Each child in the group can take on a role.

Music

Learning about musical instruments that are characteristic of different cultural groups.

- Name some of the instruments used in the film's soundtrack that are characteristic of Inuit music.