

The Boy and the Snow Goose Teacher's Guide

Ages: 5 to 12 (Please note that not all these activities are appropriate for all of these ages.)

Running time: 10:32

In this animated film without words, a boy finds an injured snow goose and bandages its wounds. Over the course of the summer, the two become inseparable friends. Once autumn arrives, the goose joins a flock migrating south — leaving the boy alone with his dreams. She returns in spring to say hello, and then departs once more.

Pre-Viewing

Have you ever noticed migratory birds in the sky in spring and fall?

Post-Viewing

Science

Recognizing animal characteristics and the links between children and the animal world.

- Describe the behaviour of both the goose and the boy when they first meet.
- Speculate on possible causes of the goose's injury.
- Give reasons for why the goose leaves, even though she is happy with the boy.
- Identify the effects of the different seasons on migratory birds.
- Discuss the possibility of freeing the bird once it is healed with the possibility of keeping it in captivity.
- Explain how birds' highly developed senses allow them to protect themselves.

Identifying the environmental effects of human activities designed to protect animals.

- Describe the daily care of an animal for which you are responsible.
- What are the advantages and disadvantages of feeding birds in winter?
- Explain how environmental protection makes life easier for birds and other animals in your region.

Language Arts

Developing oral and written communication.

- Orally summarize the key points in the story.
- Imagine the words the boy speaks to his friends to convince them to help the wounded goose.
- Describe the ways in which the boy tames and cares for the goose.
- Describe the events the boy and the goose live through together.
- Write a creative story about taking an imaginary trip with a favourite animal.

Visual Arts

Depicting people and animals.

- Draw or paint yourself
 - together with a favourite animal
 - hanging onto a bird in an imaginary setting.
- Draw a flock of birds in flight.
- Make kites and fly them on a windy day.

Drama

Improvising a dialogue or a story.

- In groups of two, play the roles of two geese. Each goose tries to convince the other to either stay or go.

Guidance: Interpersonal Relationships

Exploring the main relationships in a child's world.

- Describe how the boy feels when the goose leaves.
- What indications show that the goose and the boy are becoming more familiar and closer to each other?
- Describe how the boy and goose mutually express their joy at finding each other once again.
- Evaluate the behaviour of the boy towards the goose and towards the other geese.
- Describe how you would have behaved in the same situation.