

The Dingles

Created by award-winning animator/director Les Drew, this magical animation film is bound to win little kids' hearts! *The Dingles* brims with sparkling colors, singular characters that children can relate to, languid sunshine and warm friendship, sudden adventure and suspense, a happy ending, and just good fun.

The film's characters are a caring, grandmotherly figure, Doris Dingle, and her three delightful cats. Snobbish Donna is forever sorting through and admiring her collection of bird feathers. Curious DeeDee spends most of *her* time investigating the oddest details of Doris Dingle's activities, while all-round-good-guy Dayoh is intent on digging a hole to China.

The plot involves an unexpected gale that bursts violently into the family's idyllic life. *Never* have the Dingles experienced a storm quite like this. As a ferocious wind blasts DeeDee flat against the backyard fence, then dumps Donna and Dayoh on a rising rubble pile, all seems lost. But faithful and courageous Doris Dingle rallies to save those she loves.

Just how the Dingles escape certain doom is for viewers to find out! Young children will marvel at the storm's intensity, then sigh with relief to see Donna, DeeDee and Dayoh snuggled up in bed, safe and secure after and adventure-filled day.

Animator/director Les Drew worked with bright colors on frosted acetate cells to create this skillfully paced film. His adaptation of the book, The Dingles adds hilarious touches and other inventive details that bring the story to vivid life for the screen, while Normand Roger's original music punctuates the tale's changing moods and rhythms. The Dingles is an ideal film for home viewing, and a wonderful tool for education, pre-school to grade 3.



The Dingles is the latest in a group of animated films, JUST FOR KIDS. It is based on *The Dingles*, written by Helen Levchuk and illustrated by John Bianchi, a Groundwood Book published by Douglas and McIntyre, Vancouver and Toronto, 1985.

The other films in the collection include: *Blackberry Subway Jam* (an animated version of Robert Munsch's popular children story, "Jonathan Cleaned up — Then He Heard a Sound"); *Lucretia* (based on Peter Desbarats' poem, "Lucretia"); and *Summer Legend* (written by award-winning filmmaker Eunice Macaulay).

Audiences:

Pre-school children and their parents; Education (pre-school to grade 3); Secondary, collegial and university film studies (animation; adaptation of books to film).

Some Suggestions for Education:

Educators are asked to select, adapt, or create the suggestions that are most appropriate to the age-level they teach.

Pre-Screening:

Briefly introduce the Dingle family. Discuss names that start with D.

Post-Screening:

Questions for Discussion

1. Who do you like best in the film? Why?
2. What did you find scariest in the film? Funniest?
3. Tell about the most frightening moment in your own life, the funniest, or one where you felt very safe and secure.
4. Talk about your favorite big person or adult.
5. Talk about friendship, and why friends are important to you.

Activities

1. Remember how Doris Dingle and her cats inched their way along the ground in the film. As you listen to wild-west or other adventure music, find your own way to move. Then, find your own way to come to rest.
2. Draw or paint your favorite character in the film, or the most frightening, funniest, or happiest scene.
3. Write a short story about a storm you've been in, or about some happy moments in your life.

From a story by Helen Levchuk

Book illustrated by John Bianchi

Adapted for film by Les Drew

Animator/Director Les Drew

Production Co-ordinator Joan Churchill

Backgrounds Robert Doucet

Inking and Color Treatment Françoise Barraud

*Lucie Bélec
Brenda Jones
Meilan Lam*

Storyteller Emma Levine

Original Music/Sound Editing Normand Roger

*Animation Camera Pierre Landry
Jacques Avoine
Raymond Dumas*

Re-recording Hans Peter Strobl

Studio Administrator Carol Smith

Producer Bill Pettigrew

Executive Producer Douglas MacDonald

Produced and Distributed by National Film Board of Canada

Color

Screening time:

7 minutes 48 seconds

35 mm: 105C 0188 044

16 mm: 105C 0188 044

VHS: 113C 0188 044

Beta: 114C 0188 044

3/4": 116C 0188 044



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