

## ***The Chipmunk Adventure (1987)***

directed by Janice Karman

**Author:** Patrycja Skóbel

**Age Group:** 8-12

**Subject:** competition, travelling, money, adult world.

**Topic:** Is competition good? Discussion of *The Chipmunk Adventure*.

**Duration:** 3 lessons (135 minutes):

- 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> – Film (90 minutes)
- 3<sup>rd</sup> – Discussion and group work (45 minutes)

### **Learning Objectives:**

After these classes students will be able to:

- know the plot of the film
- discuss key points presented in the film
- understand the concept of competition
- express their own opinions about the characters and their decisions
- discuss and exchange opinions about the differences between the world of adults and the world of children

### **Methods:**

- Brainstorming
- Discussion
- Analysis of the movie
- Working in groups
- Filling in the handouts

### **Teaching Aids:**

- The Film: *The Chipmunk Adventure (1987)*
- Whiteboard
- Markers
- Handouts

### **Lesson Plan:**

### **1. Introduction:**

During the first two lessons the students watch a film. Before the screening of the film and the planned activities, the teacher introduces the concept of competition and provides general information about the film and the director. When watching the film, the students have to pay attention to the bad and good sides of the competition between the characters in the film.

### **2. Activity 1 – Brainstorming (10 min):**

After watching the movie, the teacher asks the students to finish the following sentence written on the whiteboard: "Referring to the movie *The Chipmunk Adventure*, the competition is..." Each idea should be written down by the teacher on the whiteboard and carefully discussed. The teacher encourages students to speak up and justify their opinions.

### **3. Activity 2 – Group Work (20 min):**

The students are divided into six groups. Each group fills in one selected gap in the table (Handout 1) about a given character. The information in the table concerns the character's personality, dreams, relations with adults and approach to competition. After 15 minutes, each group shares information about their characters with the whole class. It is the time for the rest of the students to express their own opinions about the discussed character and exchange information about the given topic.

### **4. Activity 3 – Discussion and Analysis of the Movie (15 min):**

The next point of the lesson is the class discussion (conclusions). The purpose of this discussion is for students to answer these questions:

- 1. Do you think that Chipmunk's behaviour was appropriate?*
- 2. Is competition good or bad?*
- 3. What can you learn from this film? Have you learnt anything?*
- 4. Did Chipmunks cope with the adults' world?*
- 5. Do you think that money is the most important thing in life?*
- 6. Which of Chipmunks do you identify with and why?*
- 7. What do you think about Klaus and Claudia's attitude towards Chipmunks? Were they responsible?*
- 8. Do you think that Chipmunks' journey around the world was a good idea?*
- 9. What were the key points (main themes) presented in this film?*

10. *Are you satisfied with the ending of the film? Would you expect a different kind of ending?*

First, the students answer these questions individually and then discuss them in pairs with their peers. After the discussion, the teacher briefly summarizes the most important information that should be remembered. Afterwards, the teacher draws conclusions from this information and ends the discussion.

### **5. Homework – Summary**

Write a short summary of the movie *The Chipmunk Adventure* (1987) based on the conclusions from activity number 3 and what was discussed during the class. Focus on the main characters and their behaviour and include a paragraph with your own opinion about this movie (200-250 words).