

Amanda receives a delicious pastry—one she plans to eat soon. But on a busy New York street corner, Amanda has a change of heart after a poor man applauds her talents. This film leaves viewers with food for thought.

As the film opens, a little girl looks at the delicious display of little cakes in a bakery. She points to one with strawberries. She smiles. Once outdoors with her mother, everything is rushed on this busy city street. On this cold, wintry day, busy people pass them by. Cars honk. The girl's mother is too busy speaking on the phone to respond to the poor man with his things on the sidewalk who has his hand out, asking for something.

Suddenly, Amanda sees a poster for the ballet, "The Nutcracker." She imagines herself as a ballerina, still with her little cake in hand. With flowers and roses, her performance is well received by her imaginary audience. But just as suddenly, her mother calls her name, "Amanda!" In this busy city, only the poor beggar man had taken the time to notice the dream of a little girl. He applauds her effort, clapping with appreciation. Grateful that someone noticed, Amanda smiles and gives her little cake to the poor man.

What's THAT Word?

Look for it in the film: confection
nutcracker

Questions for "FILM TALK!"

- How do you know what is going on in this film without words?
- What do you think is the relationship between the girl and the woman?
- What is the setting of this film—where does it take place?
- How does the filmmaker use city sounds to help tell this story?
- What showed that the poor man was asking Amanda's mother for something?
- How does Amanda respond to seeing the poster with the ballet dancer on it?
- Why do you think the poor man claps his hands?
- Why do you think Amanda gives the poor man her little cake?
- What do you think is the message of this film?

ACTIVITIES AFTER-VIEWING

ACTIVITY 1 *My Talent*

In the film, Amanda loves to dance. Everyone has unique talents and abilities. Discuss personal talents, abilities and gifts with the children. Ask them to describe one of their talents on the Activity Sheet.

My Talent— I Fix Bikes



A lot of people like to ride bikes, but not many can fix them. My dad showed me how to take apart bikes and fix all the parts. My friends and people in the neighborhood come to me to fix their bikes. Now, they pay me, and I have a business.

ACTIVITIES AFTER-VIEWING

ACTIVITY 2 Careers

Amanda is interested in dancing. Discuss careers with the students. What might they be interested in doing as a career when they grow up? What steps can they take to prepare for a career? Ask students to describe two different careers they might like and the steps they can take to achieve their career goals. (Ask that one career idea be in arts or sports, and the other in a main study area in school.)

Preparing for My Two Careers



Preparing for my career as a singer, I will work very hard in music class. I will join the chorus after school...

Preparing for my career as a vet. I will work very hard in science class. I will volunteer at the shelter....



ACTIVITY 3 A Movie with a Message

Discuss films with messages. One easy example of a short film with a message is a Public Service Announcement ("PSA"). A PSA offers a solution to a problem. Which PSAs do children know? Some urge people to stay away from smoking. Others ask parents to read to their children. Ask children to identify a problem that they could help solve with a filmed message.

My Film with a Message – A "PSA" on Recycling



1. Sort your trash!



2. Bag in blue!



3. Good for You!

FIND OUT MORE!

Investigate with research

- Ballet and dance
- Cooking and bakery treats
- Homelessness – the problems, the solutions, resources and services

RELATED VIDEOS

- Ballet Shoes*
- Creative Movement: A Step Toward Intelligence*
- Move Like the Animals*

Your Name _____

ACTIVITY 1 *We all have Talents!*

In the film, Amanda shows she is a good dancer. Everyone has special talents and abilities. Show one of yours.

My Talent



ACTIVITY 2 *My Two Careers*

What are two different careers you are interested in?
What can you do to prepare to have these two great careers?

Draw a picture of yourself at work

Career 1

Career 2

How can you prepare?

Your Name _____

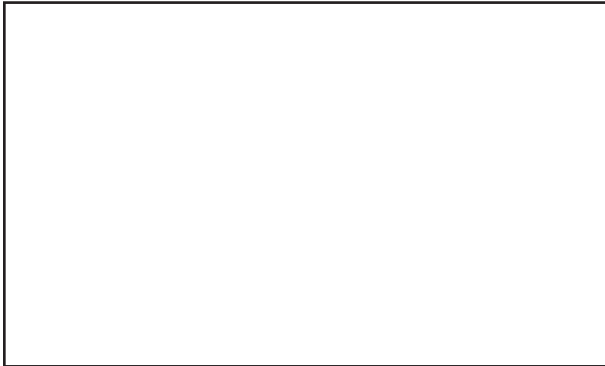
A Public Service Announcement ("PSA") is a very short film with a message. A PSA offers a solution to a problem. Which PSAs do you know? Some tell people to stay away from smoking. Others ask parents to read to their children. Decide on a problem that you could help solve by giving a message in a short filmed Public Service Announcement.

My Film to help solve the problem of _____

Draw pictures in the panels

Write words to explain the pictures

BEGINNING of the Film



MIDDLE of the Film



END of the Film



Dear Family Members,

Today, your child attended the “Best of the Fest Film Festival”! While the films are great, you should know that the program was put together by experts in child development. We’re sending you a film description so you can talk about the film with your child. It is important to help children understand film and media. The most important person who will help them to understand the messages of media are parents and guardians. We’re including an activity sheet so you can continue film activities with your child. Adapt the activities for your child. All they need is a pencil and paper. *Enjoy!*

ACTIVITY 1

Ask your child to tell you about the film, *Confection*

- What did they like best about the film?
- Why do they think the film was picked to be in the film festival?

ACTIVITY 2

Read the description of the story, below, to your child.

As you read, ask your child to explain how the different parts of the story looked in the film.



CONFECTION

Directed by Eva Saks (USA / 4"/ 2003 / Live-Action)

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Suddenly, Amanda sees a poster for the ballet, “The Nutcracker.” She imagines herself as a ballerina, still with her little cake in hand. With flowers and roses, her performance is well received by her imaginary audience. But just as suddenly, her mother calls her name, “Amanda!” In this busy city, only the poor beggar man had taken the time to notice the dream of a little girl. He applauds her effort, clapping with appreciation. Grateful that someone noticed, Amanda smiles and gives her little cake to the poor man.

ACTIVITY 3

After reading the film story description, be sure to ask your child the more important questions about the film. Here are some sample questions —

- WHY do you think the filmmaker made this film?
- Do you think the filmmaker had a MESSAGE ?
- HOW did the filmmaker show her ideas?
- HOW did she use VISUAL PICTURES?
- HOW did she use MUSIC to help tell the story?
- HOW were you able to understand this story without words?

CAREERS!

The film shows busy people going to work. Amanda imagines herself with a career as a dancer. The poor man looks like he doesn't have a job. What careers is your child interested in? In order to expand their ideas of careers, ask them to identify 3 different careers they would like to have.

My Three Careers



I will continue in dance. I will
join Muntu Dance Company...

I will also teach kindergarten.
I'll help the...

I'll also work in drawing, as
an architect. I'll build...

REALIZING THE DREAM

What can children do to prepare for their careers while they are young? What classes will they need to do well in? How can other activities help them get the experience they want?

Steps Toward a Career as a Dancer

- Do very well in gym class—get fit!
- Join the dance club—learn new dances!
- Perform in Black History pageant

Steps Toward a Career as a Teacher

- Go to all my classes on time
- Attend tutoring after-school
- Join peer-tutoring to teach younger kids

My Three Careers

Draw pictures within the picture boxes and name the careers on the lines below.



Steps Toward My Career as a _____

Steps Toward My Career as a _____
