

NAME: _____

CLASS/PERIOD: _____



"more" 1998 Directed by Mark Osborne

DATE: _____

FILM INFO

"More's" director **Mark Osborne** is an Academy Award nominated director and Guggenheim Fellow (2004). He got his start by studying Foundation Art at Pratt Institute in New York before receiving his Bachelor of Fine Arts Degree in Experimental Animation from the California Institute of the Arts in June 1992.

His most well known work to date, "More," a stop motion short film, has screened in over 150 film festivals worldwide. It was the first IMAX animation film to ever be nominated for an Academy Award (1999). Best Short Film at the Sundance Film Festival (1999), The SXSW Best Animated Short (1999), the ResFest Grand Prize (1999), the Critics Week selection for CANNES (1999) and others.

Osborne has also directed a majority of the live-action material for the popular animated TV series *Spongebob Squarepants* as well as all of the live action sequences for the feature film released in November 2005.

For a while, he supported himself by teaching stop-motion at his alma mater, CalArts. He later left to pursue his professional aspirations.

In 2008 Osborne co-directed *Kung Fu Panda* starring Jack Black. This film was nominated for the Best Animated Feature Academy Award in 2008.

Bio adapted from Wikipedia: [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mark_Osborne_\(filmmaker\)](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mark_Osborne_(filmmaker))

POSSIBLE ESSENTIAL QUESTIONS

1. What intellectual and emotional effects do "More's" cinematic elements (setting, set design, color, lighting, camera angles, etc.) have on the viewer?
2. Do all scientific innovations represent progress?
3. Do dreams and visions come at a cost?
4. Can one buy happiness and bliss?
5. Does "the invention" serve as a metaphor for other ways people seek escape?
6. Is childhood a place of pure happiness?
7. How are "happiness" and "bliss" marketed to us on a daily basis?
8. What does "the fire in the belly" mean historically, culturally and personally?
9. Is conformity positive or negative?
10. What is the relationship between isolation, connection and success?

POSSIBLE SCIENCE CONNECTIONS

The invention of "happiness" and "bliss" can be related to all kinds of scientific innovations from the mechanical to the biological.

"Change is scientific, progress is ethical; change is indubitable, whereas progress is a matter of controversy." – Bertrand Russell, British philosopher 1872-1970

Use the quote above to decide if the following scientific innovations are ethical and/or representative of social progress.

- Cloning / Genetically Modified Crops
 - Radiation
 - Gene Therapy
 - Plastic Surgery
- Genetic Screening / Designer Babies
 - Nuclear Energy
 - Pesticides
- Organ Donation/Transplants
 - Animal Testing
 - Automation of jobs

Can you think of any other scientific innovations that this quote might apply to?

POSSIBLE LITERATURE CONNECTIONS

NOVELS

1984 –George Orwell
A Brave New World –Aldous Huxley
Animal Farm –George Orwell
The Castle –Franz Kafka
Cat's Cradle –Kurt Vonnegut
Death of A Salesman –Arthur Miller
Fahrenheit 451 –Ray Bradbury
Feed –M.T. Anderson
Frankenstein –Mary Shelly
Great Expectations –Charles Dickens
The Great Gatsby –F. Scott Fitzgerald
The Handmaid's Tale –Margaret Atwood
The Lord of the Rings Trilogy –J.R.R. Tolkien
Macbeth –William Shakespeare
Paradise Lost –John Milton
Raisin in the Sun –Lorraine Hansberry
Walden –Henry David Thoreau

SHORT STORIES

"The Veldt" –Ray Bradbury
 "Harrison Bergeron" –Kurt Vonnegut
 "A Christmas Carol" –Charles Dickens
 "The Fun They Had" –Isaac Asimov
 "Super-Toys Last All Summer Long" –Brian Aldiss
 "The Pedestrian" –Ray Bradbury

POEMS

"[Coming Close](#)" –Philip Levine

FILMS

9 (2009) –Shane Acker
Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind (2004) – Michel Gondry
GATTACA (1997) –Andrew Niccol

MUSIC

"Can't Buy Me Love" – The Beatles
 "What They Do" ([music video w/ titles](#)) –The Roots
 "You Can't Always Get What You Want" –The Rolling Stones

NON-FICTION

"Tin Lizzie" –John Dos Passos
Nickeled and Dimed –Barbara Ehrenreich

ADVERTISEMENT

"1984" (the famous Mac dystopia Ad) –Ridley Scott

* For more ideas see the table of contents from this book – [The Literary Book of Economics](#) –Michael Watts

POSSIBLE SOCIAL STUDIES CONNECTIONS

The film can be taught in conjunction with topics/people like:

The Industrial Revolution • Human Capital • Management & Ethics • Developing Economies • Advertising & Marketing • Karl Marx / Marxism • Henry Ford • Philosophers like: Thomas Hobbes, Rene Descartes, Jean-Jacques Rousseau, Immanuel Kant, Mary Wollstonecraft, Jeremy Bentham

FILMS

Capitalism: A Love Story (2009) - Michael Moore
 The Corporation (2003) – Jennifer Abbott & Mark Achbar
 The Smartest Guys in the Room (2005) – Alex Gibney
 The Story of Stuff (2005) – Annie Leonard

PLACES TO FIND COOL SHORT FILMS

A groovy list from Ryan R. Goble

Doctoral candidate in Interdisciplinary Studies at Teachers College Columbia University - New York, NY

Adjunct Professor of Education: Aurora University and Roosevelt University - Chicago, IL

Consultant on Best Practices, Curriculum Design, Multimodal Literacies, Technology & Popular Culture Across the Curriculum

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The list below is adapted from two blog posts at the Making Curriculum Pop Ning and the Short Film Wiki page from the Mindblue Pop Resources Wiki. The links below will take you to the hyperlinked resources. If you need help finding the goods e-mail me through the Ning OR send a friendly e-mail to the address listed above!

SHORT FILM & VISUAL POETRY MOTHERLOAD OF RESOURCE

<http://mcpopmb.ning.com/forum/topics/short-film-visual-poetry>

TEACHING WITH OSCAR NOMINATED SHORT FILM

<http://mcpopmb.ning.com/forum/topics/teaching-woscar-nominated>

MINDBLUE POP RESOURCES SHORT FILM WIKI PAGE W/ HYPERLINKS

<http://popresources.pbworks.com/Film:-Short%C2%A0Film>

DEFINITION & RATIONALE SHORT FILMS IN THE CLASSROOM

This page seeks to address the short film as its own unique form of study. Short Films are a unique genre with ties to short stories, magazine features, music videos, film and television. Unlike many film clips or amateur YouTube videos many of the shorts featured here have professional production values, fully developed characters, rich themes and compete narrative arcs. Many short films allow you to explore the same themes and issues found in feature films using less instructional time. Many of these films have running times around five minutes! Whether you're using a short as "stand alone" content or as "supplemental text" for core curriculum these films allow more time for in-depth analysis of the film's content and construction.

Short films are now widely available on the Internet and remain one of the most underutilized teaching resources in K-12 & college classrooms. Many film festivals now present their content online and/or in DVD collections. Additionally, [Wholphin DVD Magazine](#) proves the DVD short magazine has finally come of age.

For related resources see the [Poetry and Visual Culture](#) page as well as the film resources.

ONLINE SHORT FILMS & FESTIVALS OF NOTE

[25 Brilliant Animated Short Movies](http://www.smashingmagazine.com/2008/03/03/25-brilliant-animated-short-movies/) - <http://www.smashingmagazine.com/2008/03/03/25-brilliant-animated-short-movies/>

[American Made](#) - A Sikh family is stranded in the American desert and no one will pull over to jump their car. The patriarch's youngest son attributes it to the fact that they are of color and that their father is being perceived as a terrorist, due to his turban, dark complexion. Incredibly teachable.

[Atom Entertainment](#) (formerly Atom Films) - Online short showcase now owned by MTV

[Disney Short Films on iTunes](#)

[iTunes Short Films](#)

[New York Times Video](#)

Three Shorts about New York History

#1: "Concrete Jumble: Meat Packing District"

#2: "Concrete Jumble: Unnatural History of Wall Street"

#3: "Concrete Jumble, Instant Bowery"

[Media That Matters Film Festival](#)

3rd Annual

4th Annual + [Discussion Guide](#)

5th Annual + [Discussion Guide](#)

6th Annual + [Discussion Guide](#)

7th Annual + [Discussion Guide](#)

8th Annual + [Discussion Guide](#)

Focus: [Good Food](#) + [Discussion Guide](#)

[Media That Matters Film Festival by Theme](#)

[criminal justice](#)

[economic justice](#)

[environment](#)

[family & society](#)

[gay / lesbian](#)

[gender / women](#)

[health / health advocacy](#)

[human rights](#)
[immigration](#)
[international](#)
[media](#)
[politics / government](#)
[racial justice](#)
[religious freedom](#)
[youth](#)

The [My Hero Short Film Festival](#) (documentary shorts)

[PBS Independent Lens](#) (documentary shorts)

[Pangea Day Film Festival](#) + [Online Film Archive](#)

[Pixar Short Films on iTunes](#)

[Shorts International Films on iTunes](#)

[Stories of Us](#) - A unique series of film-based education resources for supporting students, educators and the broader community in addressing the problem of bullying in schools.

[Story Of Stuff](#) - Pre-dating National Geographic's "[The Human Footprint](#)" this short documentary. Described on the website: The Story of Stuff is a 20-minute, fast-paced, fact-filled look at the underside of our production and consumption patterns. The Story of Stuff exposes the connections between a huge number of environmental and social issues, and calls us together to create a more sustainable and just world.

DVD COLLECTIONS OF SHORT FILMS

Academy Award Nominated Shorts: [2004](#), [2005](#), [2006](#), [2007](#)

[Cinema 16](#): British Short Films, [European Short Films \(2007\)](#), American Short Films, World Short Films

[Filmmovement.com](#) presents: [Art of the Short Film \(2006\)](#), [Festival Short Collection \(2009\)](#),

[Full Frame Short Documentary Film Festival: Vol. 1](#), [Vol. 2](#), [Vol. 3](#), [Vol. 4](#), [Vol. 5](#)

[Media That Matters Film Festival](#): 3rd, [4th](#), [5th](#), [6th](#), [7th](#), [Good Food](#), 8th

[Pixar Short Film Collection Vol. 1](#)

[The Official Selections: Featuring the Best Short Films from the Sundance Film Festival \(2003\)](#)

[Resfest Vol. 1](#), [Vol. 2](#), [Vol. 3](#)

[Short Cinema Journal](#) - This short-lived Warner Brothers DVD magazine from the late 1990's has many issues available used at Amazon. See [complete listing of issues and themes here](#).

[Shorts! Film Festival Collection: Vol. 1](#), [Vol. 2](#), [Vol. 3](#), [Vol. 4](#)

[The Short Films of David Lynch \(2002\)](#) - Descriptions of shorts at Amazon.

[Wholphin DVD Magazine: Issue 1](#), [Issue 2](#), [Issue 3](#), [Issue 4](#), [Issue 5](#), [Issue 6](#), [Issue 7](#), [Issue 8](#)

SHORT FILMS ADAPTED FROM SHORT FICTION

[Black Girl \(1966\)](#) Dir: Ousmane Sembene - Short Story "The Promised Land" by Ousmane Sembene collected in [Tribal Scars and Other Stories](#)

["The Hunger Artist" \(1997\)](#), USA, Dir: Tom Gibbons - Short Story "[The Hunger Artist](#)" by Franz Kafka

["An Occurrence At Owl Creek Bridge" \(1962\)](#), Italy, Dir: Robert Enrico - Short Story "An Occurrence At Owl Creek Bridge" by Ambrose Bierce

["The Pearce Sisters" \(2008\)](#), UK, Dir: Luis Cook - Short Story "The Pearce Sisters" by Mick Jackson collected in [Ten Sorry Tales](#)

["To Serve Man" \(1962\)](#), USA on [The Twilight Zone Season 3, Episode 89](#) - Short Story "To Serve Man" written by Damon Knight

["Two Soldiers" \(2003\)](#), USA, Dir: Aaron Schneider - Short Story "Two Soldiers" by William Faulkner in [Collected Stories of William Faulkner](#)

["The Tonto Woman" \(2006\)](#), UK Dir: Daniel Barber - Short Story "The Tonto Woman" by Elmore Leonard collected in [The Complete Western Stories of Elmore Leonard](#). NOTE: The short is NR but contains brief nudity.

WEBSITES: CURRICULUM AND LESSON PLANS

["Because of Mama": Drafting the Short Screenplay](#)

Media Teacher Blog ["Teaching Short Films"](#)

[Reading Film at KS1: The Lesson](#) - Tanya Redhead, a teacher at Dulwich Village C of E Infants School, inspires a Year 2 writing session with the short film, Dangle.

WEBSITES: GENERAL RESOURCES ON TOPIC

[Backdrop NYC](#) - NYCTV show showcasing short films by New Yorkers (with episode guide and film list)

[Short Film Central](#) - The International Short Film Database

[Short of the Week](#) - Website with weekly short features.

ARTICLES (for teacher background knowledge)

Please insert links and write up source using APA formatting (periodical format, online article format).

• British Film Institute, [Teaching with short films in media studies](#). Retrieved March 1, 2009

from <http://www.bfi.org.uk/education/teaching/movingshorts/mediastudies/>

BOOKS (about teaching this topic/genre)

• Quay, S. (2008). [Teaching Short Films \(BFI Teaching Film and Media Studies\)](#). London, UK; British Film Institute.

BOOKS (general information about this topic/genre)

Please insert links to Amazon.com and write up citation using APA formatting.

• Cowgill, Linda J. (2005). [Writing Short Films: Structure and Content for Screenwriters](#). Los Angeles, CA; Lone Eagle Publishing.

• Gurskis, D. (2006). [The Short Screenplay: Your Short Film from Concept to Production](#). Boston, MA: Thomson Course Technology.

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THE SYMBOLS OF "MORE"

| SYMBOL | WHERE DID THE SYMBOL OCCUR IN THE FILM? | MEANING OF SYMBOL | WHAT VISUAL CLUES ALLOWED YOU TO DETERMINE THAT THIS HAD SYMBOLIC MEANING? |
|-----------------------|---|-------------------|--|
| THE FIRE IN THE BELLY | | | |
| HAPPY & BLISS PRODUCT | | | |
| GOGGLES | | | |
| CHILDREN/PLAYGROUND | | | |
| BRIGHT COLORS | | | |

| SYMBOL | WHERE DID THE SYMBOL OCCUR IN THE FILM? | MEANING OF SYMBOL | WHAT VISUAL CLUES ALLOWED YOU TO DETERMINE THAT THIS HAD SYMBOLIC MEANING? |
|-------------|---|-------------------|--|
| DARK COLORS | | | |
| THE FACTORY | | | |
| THE BOSS | | | |
| THE STATUE | | | |
| | | | |