

A Mouse's Tail [*Le Queue de la Souris*]

Lesson Ideas

Questions

- What does the title mean?
- How does the mouse outwit the lion?
- How many animals can you spot in this film and what are their names in French?
- What other stories do you know about one animal outwitting another?
- What is the moral of the tale?

Activities

Please note: these activities are intended as suggestions for the type of activities that might be used with this film for a variety of different age groups; the activities can of course be adapted by the teacher to the age and experience of their specific class.

Pre-Watching Activities

- Listen to the first 25 or 45 seconds (depending on your preference) seconds then share predictions about possible characters, setting, plot.
- Share examples of stories/films featuring a mouse protagonist. Read a fable by La Fontaine.
- Work out what the title means and discuss the use of puns in different languages.
- Play with the title – change the noun.
- Practice hearing and saying the language from a film glossary (NB. you will find one in the Feature Resource for this film).

Watching

- Ask the class to list the number and names of the animals that are captured.
- Discuss the themes explored in the film and the moral of the tale.

Analysing

- Reflect on /evaluate your original predictions.
- Consider the play on words of the title in English (which doesn't work in French).
- Screen Education: focus the children's attention on the use of colour in this silhouette animation. Discuss which colours are used in different sections of the film and what impact they have.

- Produce a cartoon/animation/roleplay/extended writing telling how the mouse gets himself into and out of other tricky situations.
- Research, read and respond to fables by Aesop and/or la Fontaine.

Follow-up and cross-curricular activities

- Export stills from the downloaded film using an app like iMovie and create your own graphic novel for the film. It can follow the plot of the original or you could use the images to create a completely different story.
- Imagine what other adventures this little mouse could have. Create and present them in whatever format you prefer.