



The Muppets



Synopsis

On vacation in Los Angeles, Walter, the world's biggest Muppet fan, his brother Gary and Gary's girlfriend, Mary, from Smalltown, USA, discover the nefarious plan of oilman Tex Richman to raze Muppet Studios and drill for the oil recently discovered beneath the Muppets' former stomping grounds. To stage a telethon and raise the \$10 million needed to save the studio, Walter, Mary and Gary help Kermit reunite the Muppets, who have all gone their separate ways: Fozzie now performs with a Reno casino tribute band called the Moopets, Miss Piggy is a plus-size fashion editor at Vogue Paris, Animal is in a Santa Barbara clinic for anger management, and Gonzo is a high-powered plumbing magnate.

Discussion Questions

- Gary and Walter are brothers, even though Gary is a person and Walter is a Muppet. Do you think it would have been hard growing up together and being so different, particularly as Walter is never any taller on the wall chart they keep at their home?
- Toward the end of the film there is a key song that involves Gary and Walter. What do you think they are singing about when they mention being a man or being a Muppet? How do you think they end up realizing and embracing their true identities?
- Gary tells Walter that the point of growing up is to be whoever or whatever you want to be. Who do you want to be? What kind of person do you want to be? Is that the same as what profession you want to have when you grow up?
- There is a character in the film who is an executive for the television station. She is shown choosing what programs are put on the air. Why do you think she at first doesn't want to take a chance on the Muppets? Why does she eventually choose to air the Muppet's show?
- When the Muppets have to travel to Paris to talk to Miss Piggy they decide to "travel by map." What do you think this means? Is that something that is possible in real life, or were they just being silly?
- When Gary and Mary arrive in Los Angeles, their goal is to celebrate their anniversary. Why does Mary get angry when Gary forgets to plan a special dinner for them? What does Gary eventually realize he did wrong, and how does he apologize?

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- The characters in the film are often making fun of themselves, but never other people, even the bad guy. Why do you think they do this? Is it funnier if they make fun only of themselves? Do you ever make fun of other people when you're trying to be funny? Would it be funnier if you poked fun at yourself and laughed along with everyone else?

Do Your Research

- Much of what happens in *The Muppets* refers back to the years when the Muppets had their own television show and starred in several other movies. Research the cultural phenomenon that surrounded the Muppets in their heyday. Why do you think so many famous movie stars wanted to be on their television show? How do you think the current movie *The Muppets* parallels what happened in real life to the Muppets?

Get Involved

- In the movie, the Muppets must create a new stage show to raise money to save their beloved old studio. Is there an historic building in a part of your town that is in danger of being torn down? If so, ask people in the community if they know about any groups that are working to save the building. If there is no group currently trying to save the building, start your own! How could you raise money to save the building? You might not need to create your own stage show, but be creative!



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