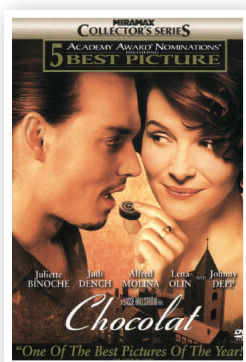




CHOCOLAT



Synopsis

A single mother, Vianne, moves to a small French village and opens a chocolate shop at the beginning of Lent, right across from a Catholic church. This infuriates the mayor, who is Catholic and dead set on closing her shop. While the mayor and Vianne continue to battle each other, Vianne slowly begins to win the hearts and minds of the local people via her chocolate.

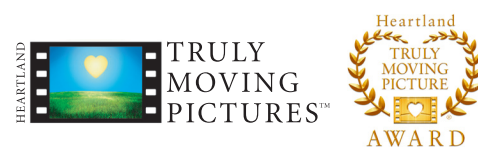
Discussion Questions

- At the beginning of the film, the narrator tells us that the town exists in a state of tranquility. Do you believe that the town was more or less tranquil with the addition of Vianne and Anouk? Why or why not?
- Why does the opening of a chocolate shop during the middle of Lent cause such distress for the town mayor?
- Anouk loved to hear the story of her grandparents, how they met and how their way of life came to be. Why do you think she enjoyed this story even though she disliked moving around so often? As you were growing up did you hear stories of your grandparents or other ancestors that gave you insight into your family?
- Vianne almost prescribes chocolate as a doctor or pharmacist would prescribe pills to a patient. What were some of the ailments she tried to cure in the town with her chocolate? Did it work?
- Anouk has an imaginary friend, a kangaroo with a bad leg. The kangaroo hopped away when Anouk realized they would be finally staying in a village and making a permanent home. Did you have an imaginary friend when you were younger? Did you use it to help you cope with a situation?



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- What about the gypsies does the mayor consider immoral? Can you think of a modern day example in the United States of the nomadic lifestyle of the gypsies in Europe?
- Roux and Vianne compare their lifestyles. Both are nomadic, but as Vianne says, Roux gets to bring his home with him. Which lifestyle do you find preferable? Why?
- What caused the Mayor to attack the chocolate sculpture? How did that lead into the chocolate binging that occurred soon after? Do you think the taste of the chocolate alone made the Mayor change his ways?



Activities

- Vianne makes an amazing meal for Armande's birthday dinner. Chocolate sauce coated much of the meal. Try a unique recipe that includes chocolate in the main dish (not just dessert)!
- Design your perfect chocolate. Fruit-filled, nougat, mint or nutty...however you like it. With a friend or adult spend some time in the kitchen making that dream chocolate become real.
- Visit a chocolate shop in your city or town and try a completely new type of chocolate you've never tried before.

Get Involved

- It's easy to judge or even ignore newcomers who seem different or strange. Try opening your mind and introduce yourself to a neighbor you haven't met, or a person at school who seems interesting. Maybe try offering him or her a chocolate.
- Vianne offered Josephine a place to live and a job when she needed to leave her husband who was abusing her. Donate your time, money or goods to a shelter in your community that helps women who are struggling to get on their feet after an abusive relationship.

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