



Despicable Me



Synopsis

In a happy suburban neighborhood surrounded by white picket fences with flowering rose bushes, sits a black house with a dead lawn. Unbeknownst to the neighbors, hidden beneath this home is a vast secret hideout. Surrounded by a small army of minions, we discover Gru, planning the biggest heist in the history of the world. He is going to steal the moon. (Yes, the moon!) Gru delights in all things wicked. Armed with his arsenal of shrink rays, freeze rays and battle-ready vehicles for land and air, he vanquishes all who stand in his way. Until the day he encounters the immense will of three little orphaned girls who look at him and see something that no one else has ever seen: a potential Dad. The world's greatest villain has just met his greatest challenge: three little girls named Margo, Edith and Agnes.

Discussion Questions

- Gru wanted to be the best super-villain on the planet. Why would someone want to be a villain? Why do you think Gru wanted to be a villain?
- As the movie progressed, we saw that Gru was changing and that he was starting to really care about the girls. What do you think the turning point was? When do you think he began to care so much about them and why?
- Throughout the film Gru had flashbacks, remembering times when he tried to impress his mother. How did his mother respond to all of his successes? How do you think this affected Gru? Do you also look for approval in parents, older siblings or grandparents?
- Gru had an entire team of help behind him. Who was involved in his work? How did they help him? Could he have been successful without them?



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Activities

- Gru writes his own book to represent his new family. Try writing your own story and turning it into a book with illustrations. Use stories in your own family as inspiration.
- The book Gru reads to the girls about the three little kittens uses finger puppets to help act out the story. Create your own puppet using a sock (for your whole hand) or a glove (for your finger). You can even use the puppet to narrate or act out the story you wrote in the activity above.
- Use a telescope to view the moon close-up, and study the way it looks. Also research the moon's importance to the Earth.
- Gru would have never been interested in attending a dance recital before he grew closer to the girls. He was missing out on a lot of talent. Attend an amateur dance or music performance in your community and observe the talent that exists in your area!
- The girls were very interested to learn what Gru did for a living when they realized he probably wasn't a dentist. Do you know what your parents or grandparents do for a living? Ask them about it! Maybe even conduct a brief interview with them to learn about all the different jobs they have had.



Get Involved

- Margo, Edith and Agnes were all children without parents who were living in a group home. There are many children in communities all around the country who don't have parents who they can live with. Make a donation of either your time or toys to brighten these children's day.
- The girls took dance lessons, but since they lived in a group home, the dance outfits they wore were most likely donated to them. Sports and dance equipment is very expensive and many children can't afford these activities because of the cost. Hold a drive to collect equipment and donate it to a local group home or foster program.

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