



Discussion guide developed by Heartland Truly Moving Pictures to accompany *Wall·E*, a Truly Moving Picture Award-winning film. A Truly Moving Picture Award winner is a film that unlocks the vast potential of the human spirit and enables us to view stories that display courage, integrity and hope, taking entertainment to a higher level.



[www.TrulyMovingPictures.org](http://www.TrulyMovingPictures.org)

## One Film Can

Heartland Truly Moving Pictures, a non-profit organization, recognizes and honors films and filmmakers whose work explores the human journey by expressing hope and respect for the positive values of life. We believe that one film can move us to laughter, to tears, or to make a difference. *WALL•E* is a movie that demonstrates that One Film Can.

## Synopsis

Filled with humor, heart, fantasy, and emotion, *WALL•E* takes moviegoers on a remarkable journey across the galaxy and once again demonstrates Pixar's ability to create entire worlds and set new standards for storytelling, character development, out-of-this-world music composition, and state-of-the-art CG animation.

Set in a galaxy not so very far away, *WALL•E* is an original and exciting comedy about a determined robot. After hundreds of lonely years doing what he was built for, WALL•E (Waste Allocation Load Lifter Earth-Class) discovers a new purpose in life (besides collecting knickknacks) when he meets a sleek search robot named EVE (Extra-terrestrial Vegetation Evaluator). EVE comes to realize that WALL•E has inadvertently stumbled upon the key to the planet's future and races back to space to report her findings to the humans who have been eagerly waiting aboard the luxury spaceship Axiom for news that it is safe to return home. Meanwhile, WALL•E chases EVE across the galaxy and sets into motion one of the most incredible comedy adventures ever brought to the big screen.



## This little robot actually teaches humanity how to be human again.

Lindsey Collins, WALL•E Co-Producer

Before WALL•E boards the Axiom to save EVE, the humans lead a complacent existence. Purchases are made with the click of a button, conversations are had by looking at a screen instead of at a person's face, and the people are contentedly shuttled from place to place without having to move a muscle because of the ways in which they have been conditioned to live over the past 700 years.

### Discussion Questions

- This movie humanizes robots, yet mechanizes and, at times, infantizes the humans. What are some examples of this? What statements does this make?
- What aspects of our humanity did *WALL•E* highlight for you? Did it shed light on parts of our humanity you hadn't previously considered?
- How does WALL•E's silent relationship with his cricket friend set the stage for the rest of his relationships throughout the movie?
- *WALL•E* is set in the future, yet there are many "historic" artifacts that WALL•E surrounds himself with, such as rubber duckies, Rubik's cubes, batteries, light bulbs, etc. Do you find significance in these artifacts? Why?
- Do you think it is significant that *Hello, Dolly!*, the 1969 American musical film, is the movie from which WALL•E learns about emotions and love? Why?
- The first 40 minutes of *WALL•E* contain virtually no dialogue. Can you think of other movies where this is the case? How did WALL•E's personality come forth without dialogue?
- Buster Keaton and Charlie Chaplin are both silent movie actors to whom WALL•E could be compared. Compare their method of comedic acting to WALL•E's.

## What if mankind had to leave Earth and somebody forgot to turn off the last robot?

The above quote is the tagline for *WALL•E*, a movie that, although delightful and entertaining, presents an unsettling vision of an imagined future. Use the following discussion prompts to consider the impact this film had on you, and in turn the impact you can have on the world around you.

### Discussion Questions

- Do you agree with the vision of the future that *WALL•E* presents?
- What stands out to you as the central theme of this movie? Why?
- Do you believe this is a movie for children or adults? Why?
- If you experienced the movie with a child did both of you take away the same message? How did they differ? How were they the same?
- This film makes a statement about modern society. How did you feel about the way consumerism was represented?
- How do you feel the movie represented the environment and both the action and inaction that people take when dealing with environmental issues?
- The ultimate message of *WALL•E* is a call to action. Through the actions of one robot many are inspired in different ways. Some are inspired to connect with other people in new and meaningful ways; some are called to begin caring for the earth. Did this movie inspire you try something new and break out of your current routine? How?

## WALL•E is an innocent and child-like little character who unintentionally ends up having a huge impact on the world.

Jim Reardon, WALL•E screenplay

WALL•E is a character with whom both young and old can identify. His character and the story allows a powerful message to be portrayed in a playful way.

### Discussion Questions

- Sometimes it takes a child-like innocence to help people see things in a different way. If you have children, what have they taught you? How?
- If you watch *WALL•E* with children, what messages will you take from the film to discuss with them in greater detail? Why?
- Do you believe the message of this film would have been delivered in the same way if it had not been an animated film? Why?

Following are some suggestions for things to do on your own or with your family that emphasize the importance of taking care of the environment.

- Like WALL•E cleaned up the garbage around him, here are some tips for cleaning up in your home and in your community to keep waste at a minimum:
  - Reduce the amount of garbage you create by buying in bulk and not purchasing individually packaged materials
  - Pack lunches in reusable containers and not in disposable bags
  - Recycle plastics, metals and glass in your home and in your school
  - Bring reusable fabric bags when you go shopping
  - Instead of throwing away old t-shirts, turn them into reusable dust rags
  - Use the Mail Preference Service at Direct Marketing Association to be taken off some junk mail lists. [www.dmachoice.org](http://www.dmachoice.org)
- At the end of *WALL•E*, the people who returned to Earth were able to plant seeds, which sprouted and grew, proving that with care and nurturing life could still thrive on earth. Here are some fun tips for planting and growing to share with your family:
  - Instead of throwing away waste scraps of produce and eggshells, start a compost pile to create rich and healthy soil for your garden
  - Start an herb garden indoors with basil, rosemary, thyme and other favorites
  - Plant a tree for each family member somewhere your family can visit each year to see how they've grown
  - In the spring, plant themed gardens such as a Pizza Garden or an Herbal Tea Garden
    - Pizza Garden suggestions: Basil, oregano, green pepper, onion, and tomatoes
    - Herbal Tea Garden suggestions: Chamomile, mint, lemon balm, and lavender

## Truly Moving Moments

*WALL•E* has been honored as a Heartland Truly Moving Picture Award-winning film. This award was created to honor films released theatrically that align with Heartland’s mission to recognize and honor films and filmmakers whose work explores the human journey by artistically expressing hope and respect for the positive values of life.

These award-winning movies are made up of moving and inspiring moments – those moments that cause you to think, see something in your life differently, or be inspired to do something. It’s what makes the movie and its message remain with you well after you’ve left the theatre.

Think about *WALL•E*. What were the moments that stood out to you? How did they make you feel? How will they cause you to think about things differently in the future?

Share these moments with others at [www.TrulyMovingPictures.org](http://www.TrulyMovingPictures.org). Simply create a membership or login if you already have one and then search the movie list for *WALL•E*. You can leave your review of the movie or thoughts about the moment that moved you most in the “Thoughts and Reviews” section.

