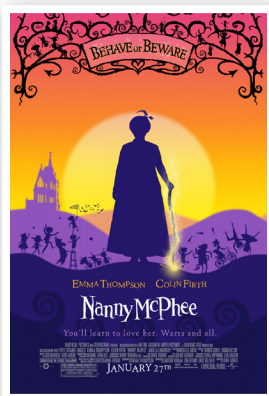




NANNY MCPHEE



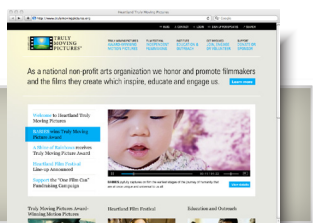
Synopsis

The recently widowed Mr. Brown attempts to tame his seven exceedingly ill-behaved children. The children, led by the oldest boy Simon, have managed to drive away 17 previous nannies and are certain that they will have no trouble with this one. But as Nanny McPhee takes control, they begin to notice that their vile behavior now leads swiftly and magically to rather startling consequences.

Discussion Questions

- The children drove away seventeen nannies before Nanny McPhee arrived. Why do you think they despised having a nanny so much?
- Nanny McPhee explained to Mr. Brown from the start, "When you need me but do not want me then I must stay. When you want me but do not need me I must go." What exactly does this statement mean to you? Is there anyone in your life that has acted on this type of philosophy? What kind of people or professions act within these rules?
- The children are terrified of potential stepmothers because of that they have read in books and heard in stories. Think about what you have read in books and seen in movies, particularly in fairy tales. When you think of a stepmother what comes to mind? Do you believe that depiction is true to life?
- As the children began to become more respectful, the uglier physical characteristics of Nanny McPhee began to disappear. Why do you think this happened? What does that represent?
- As you've gotten to know someone better, has his or her appearance ever seemed to change? If so, why do you believe this was the case?

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NANNY MCPHEE

Activities

- This movie had a nice outcome, defeating the age-old stereotype of evil stepmothers. We know that Evangeline isn't evil! Think of another stereotype that you see in fairy tales or stories that you've read. Write your own story that turns that stereotype upside down.
- Many of the problems this family experienced stemmed from lack of communication. The children didn't feel as though they had enough time with their father; and most of his "talking" to the children consisted of punishing them. Plan a time with your parent or child at least once each week that you can devote to talking about any problems you might have. Make sure this time is marked on the calendar and if it is cancelled must be rescheduled immediately.
- Learn more about etiquette by reading a book or even attending an etiquette class. Evangeline came back from her education in high society knowing all the right words and moves. Whether or not you choose to use your newly learned etiquette in the lunchroom is another story!
- Nanny McPhee wanted the children to learn five lessons before she could leave. Create a coupon book to give to your parents with five different things you will do for them whenever they want to cash it in. Think about what would make your parents most appreciative.

Get Involved

- Evangeline grew up without ever having learned to read. This is a problem that is more prevalent in this country than most people know. If you are old enough, become a tutor to adult new readers. If you are still in school, help students who are younger than you but might be further behind than they should be in literacy skills. Volunteer to be a reading buddy or mentor.
- Many children in your community have parents who are overburdened and have very little time. Volunteer to work in an after-school center or summer day camp to help both parents and their kids.



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