



DISCUSSION GUIDE

Developed by Heartland Truly Moving Pictures to accompany *Battle for Terra*, recipient of the Truly Moving Picture Award, an honored distinction given to films that unlock the vast potential of the human spirit and enable us to view stories that display courage, integrity and hope, taking entertainment to a higher level.

TrulyMovingPictures.org

www.BattleForTerra.com



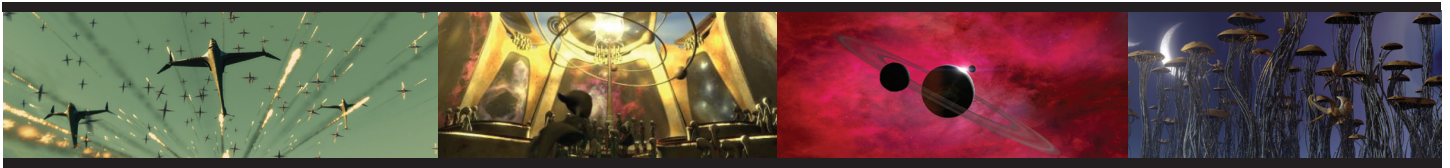
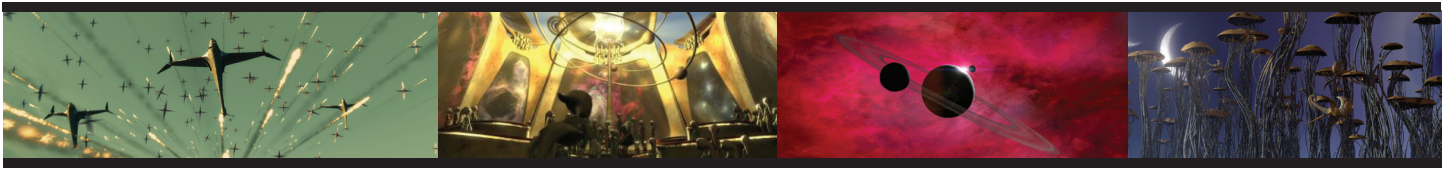


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One Film Can

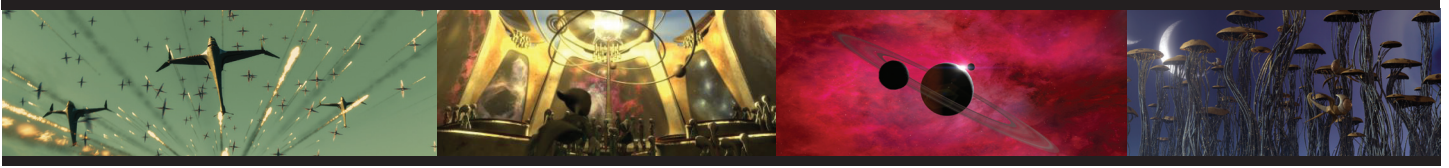
Heartland Truly Moving Pictures, a non-profit organization, recognizes and honors filmmakers whose work explores the human journey by expressing hope and respect for the positive values of life. We believe that one film can move us to laughter, to tears, or to make a difference. *Battle for Terra* is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

Synopsis

Living in perfect harmony in gravity-defying cities above the clouds, the inhabitants of the planet Terra are complete strangers to war. So when Terra is invaded by human beings fleeing a civil war and environmental catastrophe, many of the Terrians at first welcome the invaders as gods. Only the feisty young Mala (Evan Rachel Wood) fights back, luring one of the invading spacecrafts to destruction after her father is abducted, then rescuing its pilot—a human named Jim (Luke Wilson).

In return for saving his life, Jim promises to help Mala find her father, taking her on a perilous journey to the Ark—the humans' aging mother ship. Along the way, Mala and Jim learn that their people really aren't so different from one another. But with the Earthforce army poised to invade Terra and render it uninhabitable for Terrians, Mala and Jim must find a way to help the two races coexist—before it's too late.

Rated PG for sequences of science-fiction action violence and some thematic elements.



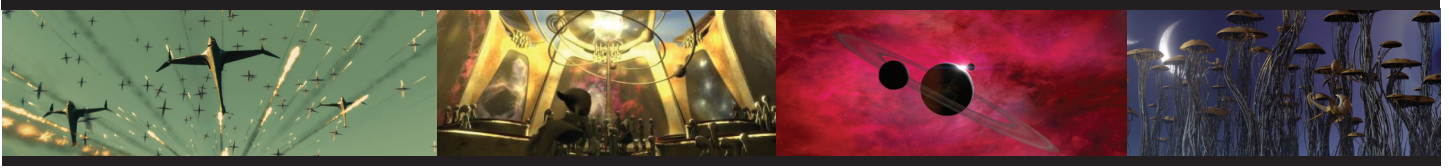
Tolerance and Understanding

Battle for Terra tells the alien-invasion tale in reverse. A peace-loving society of Terrians lives unbothered until the last humans, searching for a planet to call home, try to overtake their planet. This sci-fi tale is much more than simply an outerspace adventure. It is an exploration of tolerance and understanding between two very different species.

Use the questions below to explore the value of tolerance and understanding in all aspects of life.

Discussion Questions

- When Jim first sees Mala he calls her a “monster.” How do you think this makes Mala feel? Are there things you have called people before you even had a chance to get to know them? How did it make that person feel?
- Why do you think the humans try to take over Terra without first talking to the Terrians and trying to understand their culture? If you had been in the humans’ situation, what would you have done?
- Like Mala helps Jim, have you ever been helped by someone? What if everyone did one nice thing for someone? What do you think that simple action might ignite? What are some simple acts you can do and encourage others to do as well?
- General Hemmer is one of the most intolerant individuals in the movie and pushes for the hostile take over of Terra. He views the Terrians not as another culture, but as an obstacle in building a sustainable planet for the humans. How do you think General Hemmer would have dealt with the takeover of Terra had he been a more tolerant individual? If your civilization’s fate were on the line and you had the responsibility General Hemmer possessed, how would you deal with the situation?
- What do you think about the argument that takes place during the general counsel session on the humans’ space ship? One counselor argues that the human race won’t be able to thrive if they lack tolerance of the Terrians and repeat the actions of the past, referring to war and the hostile takeover of Terra. Have you ever learned lessons from your past? What were they and how did they help you?
- What are some instances in *Battle for Terra* that demonstrated tolerance and understanding?
- What things can you do to help promote tolerance and understanding in your home, school or community?



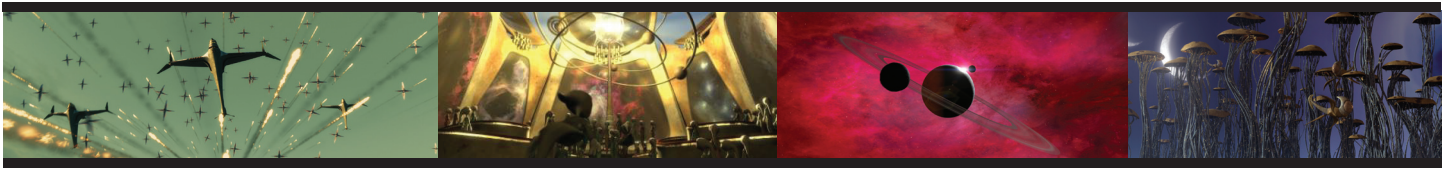
The Value of Friendship

Although the humans and the Terrians are waging a battle against one another, Jim Stanton, a human, and Mala, a Terrian, learn to become friends.

Through unlikely circumstances these two individuals learn to become friends who look out for one another and ultimately make huge sacrifices for each other. Use the following questions to prompt discussion about the value of friendship in *Battle for Terra* and in your own life.

Discussion Questions

- Mala and Jim's first encounter results in Jim's ship crashing to the ground and Mala saving him. Why did Mala choose to save a human when the humans were attacking Terra? What would you have done in Mala's situation?
- Mala and Senn are good friends, but Mala keeps a major secret from Senn when she hides Jim Stanton in her home. Why do you think Senn told the other Terrians about Jim instead of trusting Mala and keeping her secret as she asked? Has a friend ever asked you to keep a secret that you felt someone else should know? How did you deal with that situation?
- Once Jim and Mala have become friends, they journey together to the humans' ship to rescue Mala's father. Once there, General Hemmer tries Jim's loyalty by placing Mala and Jim's brother together in a room in which only one of them can survive. No matter what decision Jim makes it will be wrong, but it will also be right. Have you ever had to make a difficult decision between a friend and a family member? What was it and how did you deal with the situation?
- "Never lose hope, Mala. There are always alternatives." These are the words of a Terrian elder to Mala as Mala worries about the humans and the Terrians going to war over Terra. What were the alternatives? How did friendship factor into these alternatives?
- Jim Stanton was very conflicted during the battle for Terra. Eventually, Jim chose to help Mala and her fellow Terrians by making a tremendous sacrifice. Do you think Jim's sacrifice was necessary? How did it impact both the Terrians and the humans? What are some other ways that the Terrians and humans could have come to a peaceful co-existence?
- What are some ways you can work on having a more peaceful co-existence with family members, schoolmates or others with whom you might have difficulty getting along?



Taking Care of Your World

The humans, in their quest for a sustainable planet, had already destroyed the resources of Earth, Mars and Venus. The resources of these planets, as in real life, are plentiful, but not limitless. The humans in Terra are an example to us all about how we need to be good guardians of the earth and take care of the planet we have now in order to be certain future generations have as plentiful of resources as we have today.

Use the following ideas to prompt your youth to become actively engaged in taking care of the environment and to realize the power they hold to make a difference.

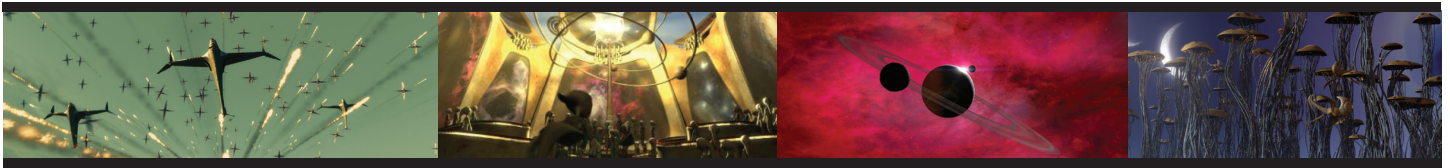
Suggestions for Preserving Your Community

- Discover the power that one person has to make a difference by organizing a clean up day in your community. Whether it is just you and your family, a group of friends, or your entire school, everybody pulling together to clean up an outside area will make a difference.
- Plant a garden in your kitchen or outside. If you don't have a lot of space, start a small herb garden inside. If you have more space, consider an organic garden in your backyard or in an empty lot. If you can find enough people to pitch in and help out, you may be able to grow enough produce to donate to a local food pantry.
- Recycle in your home. If you are already doing so, be sure to educate others on the importance of this simple act . Encourage your school or other organizations in your community to recycle if they don't already.
- Bring reusable bags with you when shopping for groceries or clothing to cut down on the number of disposable bags that get added to landfills each day.
- Be conscious of the amount of water and electricity you use. As soon as you begin paying attention to how long you let the water run and how many lights are turned on in your home, you might be surprised by how many resources you are wasting.

Find more ideas and activities in the “Battle for Terra Family Activity Guide” created by the National Wildlife Federation in association with Roadside Attractons.

Find activities for kids ages 6-14 and their families, plus classroom extensions for educators. Download the “Battle for Terra Family Activity Guide” and learn more about the movie at **www.BattleforTerra.com**.

Also, visit the the National Wildlife Federation at **www.nwf.org** to learn more about preserving our planet for future generations.



Moving Moments

Battle for Terra 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 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, and be inspired to take action. They are what make the movie and its message remain with you well after you’ve left the theatre.

Think about *Battle for Terra*. 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 those moving moments with others at TrulyMovingPictures.org. Simply login, or create an account if you don’t already have one, and search the movie list for *Battle for Terra*. You can leave your review or comments about this film under the “Review” section.



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