



Discussion guide developed by Heartland Truly Moving Pictures to accompany *BOLT*, 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





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. *Bolt* is a movie that demonstrates that **One Film Can**.

Synopsis

For super-dog BOLT (voice of John Travolta), every day is filled with adventure, danger and intrigue, at least until the cameras stop rolling. When the star of a hit TV show is accidentally shipped from his Hollywood soundstage to New York City, he begins his biggest adventure yet, a cross-country journey through the real world to get back to his owner and co-star, Penny (voice of Miley Cyrus). Armed only with the delusions that all his amazing feats and powers are real, and the help of two unlikely traveling companions – a jaded, abandoned housecat named Mittens (voice of Susie Essman) and a TV-obsessed hamster named Rhino (voice of Mark Walton) – Bolt discovers he doesn't need superpowers to be a hero.



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Friendship

Penny and Bolt have a special relationship. While this relationship might seem spectacular as it is portrayed on the big screen, it is one with which most pet owners can identify. Using Bolt and Penny's relationship as an example is a good way for you to talk with youth about some special friendships they have with both people and animals.

Encourage everyone to think about the loyalty and trust they have in relationships as you discuss the following questions.

Discussion Questions

- Penny and Bolt have a very special friendship. Who are some of your best friends and how are your friendships with those people all different and uniquely special?
- Do you have pets? If so, do you have a special relationship with this pet? Why?
- How do your relationships with pets differ from those with humans?
- If you have a pet, how does he or she make you feel when you are sad? What about when you are happy? Do you believe that your pet can tell what kind of mood you are in? Why?
- If you were to create an animated character like Bolt, Mittens, or Rhino, based on your pet, what would you imagine your pet's personality to be? How would he talk, act, think and interact with others? If you'd like, draw a picture of this character. Have fun and be creative.
- Think about the friends Bolt meets along his journey and how those relationships unfold. How does Bolt meet each of his friends? What is special about each friendship? Would these relationships have formed in other circumstances?
- How does Bolt and Mittens' relationship gradually strengthen and then get torn apart? Why do you believe Mittens treats Bolt the way she does?
- Like Mittens, do you ever treat people badly if you are sad or lonely?
- How does Bolt feel when Rhino helps him escape from Animal Patrol? Why?



Life Changes

Bolt spends his life on a television set believing he has many super powers. When he escapes from the set and gets lost in the real world searching for Penny, he learns he doesn't have the super powers he once thought he did. Bolt also is very lonely as he tries to find his way back to Penny but learns a lot about friendship with Rhino and Mittens along the way.

Use the questions below to help generate discussion about the ways Bolt and others deal with changes in life.

Discussion Questions

- How would you feel if you were Bolt and suddenly couldn't do the things you were used to doing?
- Have you ever been able to do something but then had that ability disappear? What was it and why did that ability go away? How did you deal with it? On the other hand, have you ever not been able to do something, but worked hard to be able to do it? What was it and how did you accomplish it?
- On Bolt's journey to find Penny he felt scared and alone at first. Have you ever felt scared or alone? What made you feel better in those situations?
- What do you think Bolt feels when Rhino recognizes him after he has not been recognized for such a long time? Do you think Bolt felt scared or alone? What made Bolt feel better?
- Bolt learns on his journey what is truly important to him—he learns that all things associated with home are most important to him, On Bolt's journey the song "Barking at the Moon" by Jenny Lewis is playing. The lyrics in the chorus are, "There is no home like the one you've got, 'cause that home belongs to you." What does home mean to you? When you are away from home what things do you miss? Why?





Being an Everyday Hero

After Bolt comes to terms with “losing” his super powers, he realizes that he can still be a hero. What are some ways that you can encourage your children or others in your life that they have the power to be everyday heroes?

Here are some suggestions for activities to get your youth thinking about everything they can do to make a difference in their life or the lives of others:

Get Involved!

- Be a friend to someone in your school or community organization who doesn't have many friends.
- Visit a nursing home or veteran's home once a week or once a month to read stories or play cards with some of the residents.
- Start a fundraiser in the neighborhood or at school to help raise money for the environment, curing a disease or any other cause that is special to you.
- Start a Backpack and School Supply drive to help other youth who have families with limited resources get ready for the start of the school year.
- Volunteer your time with an organization that needs your help. Volunteering as a family or with a child can be a very rewarding experience. Try the local food pantry, nursing home or other facility that supports a cause that has special meaning for you.
- Get involved with the Humane Society or another animal welfare group and find out how you can help make sure pets like Mittens always have a good home and loving families.





Truly Moving Moments

Bolt 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, 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 *Bolt*. 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 Truly Moving moments with others at www.TrulyMovingPictures.org. Simply create a membership or login if you already have one and then search the movie list for *Bolt*. You can leave your review of the movie or thoughts about your Truly Moving Picture in the "Thoughts and Reviews" section.

