



Reel Fun  
Film Festival



## Where's Winky's Horse?

(Netherlands 2008)

83 minutes

Grade 3-6

### Summary:

Winky and her horse are back in a whole new adventure! Winky's favourite horse is Amerigo. Winky grooms and visits Amerigo every day with dreams of one day riding him. Finally Winky's parents decide she is old enough to start taking riding lessons. On top of that, she will be getting a new brother or sister! However, Winky learns she is too little to ride Amerigo and must take lessons on Naf-Naf the pony. Things are going smoothly until Winky decides to try riding Amerigo on her own and as a result Amerigo escapes. Where is Winky's Horse is a beautifully acted movie that charms you from the opening credits to its final scene.

### Curriculum links:

English Language Arts, Social Studies, health

### Pre-Screening Activities

This film is the sequel to Winky's Horse, the story of a young girl who, during the Swedish holiday season of Sinterklaas wished for a horse.

In preparation for this film, educate students about the European tradition of Sinterklaas.

Use this information and the following websites to share the story of Sinterklaas with students:

The Feast of Sinterklaas, or St. Nicholas, is an annual event that has been uniquely Dutch and Flemish for centuries. St. Nicholas' Feast Day, December 6th, is observed in most Roman Catholic countries primarily as a feast for small children. In Europe, St. Nikolaus is considered to be the Patron Saint of all children. He was born in Patara in the year 270 and died on December 6th, now considered to be "Sank Nikolaus Day".

During his processions through the towns, Sinterklaas handed out presents for young and old, as well as 'punishment' for laziness or naughtiness. His companion is typically a frightening character who goes by the name of Knecht Ruprecht, Rumpelklas, Beelzebub, Pelznickel, Hans Muff, Krampus, Drapp or Bartel. He is responsible for administering any punishments and often wears a disguise.

Traditionally children have an actual 'encounter' with Sanct Nicolaus on the evening of December 5th, and if not they put out their shoes or stockings at night which, by morning are filled with sweets and treats.

Suggested websites:

<http://www.thehollandring.com/sinterklaas.shtml>

<http://www.sinterklaas.ca/history.html>

Introduce students to the Netherlands using information and activities from these websites:



<http://www.coloring.ws/netherlands.htm>

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/europe/6360517.stm>

<http://www.infoplease.com/ipa/A0107824.html>

### **Post-Screening Activities**

Have students write a journal entry from the perspective of Winky during the time Amerigo runs away. Brainstorm what has happened during this part of the film and ask students to consider how Winky feels when she rides Amerigo without permission and then loses him. Ask students to imagine that Amerigo is able to tell his side of the story. Have students write a journal entry from Amerigo's perspective. Students who choose to write from the horse's perspective must imagine that they have the ability to interpret the horse's thoughts.

Suggested websites:

<http://www.lessonplanspage.com/LAWriteMovieReviewFromPetsPOV49.htm>

[http://www.readwritethink.org/lesson\\_images/lesson313/journal-sheet.pdf](http://www.readwritethink.org/lesson_images/lesson313/journal-sheet.pdf)

For assessment purposes:

[http://www.readwritethink.org/lesson\\_images/lesson313/rubric.pdf](http://www.readwritethink.org/lesson_images/lesson313/rubric.pdf)

Have students compare their lives to Winky's. Use the Venn Diagram in the Appendix or a comparison chart to list the differences and similarities between themselves and Winky. Have students draw a picture or write a paragraph comparing their lives to Winky's. Encourage students to consider Winky's experiences of having a new sister, caring for an animal, attending school and doing household chores. Have students write a paragraph, a list of sentences, or draw a picture of their comparisons.

Suggested websites:

<http://content.scholastic.com/browse/article.jsp?id=2997>

Elementary teachers may wish to use this colouring page with students:

<http://wwws.nl.warnerbros.com/winkyshorse/downloads/colouring.pdf>