

Adoption at the Movies

Excerpt with permission from: Cooper, A. (2017). *Adoption at the movies: A Year of Adoption-Friendly Movie Nights to Get Your Family Talking*. Philadelphia, PA: Jessica Kingsley Publishers. This book contains descriptions of each movie and discussion questions to stimulate communication between parents and their children.

Also see website: <http://www.adoptionlcsw.com/>

APPENDICES: MOVIES BY AGE

To help you get started with a movie tonight, here are some suggestions sorted by broad age group. Check out the full reviews in this book to get more precise age recommendations and for some help in figuring out which film best suits your needs. Some movies fit for more than one age group; for example, some of the films listed under “Grown-Ups” only show up there, and are movies best suited to parents rather than kids; but other movies in the “Grown-Up” list are kid-friendly movies that can also hold their own as entertaining and worthwhile for adults, whether or not kids are also in the audience.

Age 7 and under

Choose Your Own Adventure: The Abominable Snowman

Curly Top

Despicable Me 2

Ernest and Celestine

Frozen

Kung Fu Panda

Kung Fu Panda 3

Penguins of Madagascar

Planes

Planes: Fire and Rescue

Rio 2

Tarzan II

The Tigger Movie

Turbo

Up

Ages 7-12

Angels in the Outfield
Annie (1999)
Big Hero 6
The Boxtrolls
Chimpanzee
Curly Top
Despicable Me
Despicable Me 2
Earth to Echo
Ernest and Celestine
Finding Dory
Frozen
How to Train Your Dragon 2
Jungle Book (1967)
Kung Fu Panda
Kung Fu Panda 2
Kung Fu Panda 3
Lilo and Stitch
Meet the Robinsons
Mr. Peabody and Sherman
Paddington
Penguins of Madagascar
Planes
Planes: Fire and Rescue
Rio 2
Star Wars: Episode I – The Phantom Menace
Star Wars: Episode II – Attack of the Clones Star
Wars: Episode III – Revenge of the Sith

Star Wars: Episode IV – A New Hope
Star Wars: Episode V – The Empire Strikes Back
Star Wars: Episode VI – Return of the Jedi
Star Wars: Episode VII – The Force Awakens
Superman: The Movie
Tarzan
Tarzan II
Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles (2014)
The Tigger Movie
Up

Ages 12-18

Antwone Fisher
Big Hero 6
The Boxtrolls
Chimpanzee
Cinderella (2015)
Closure
Creed
Divergent
Finding Dory
Frozen
How to Train Your Dragon 2
Instant Family
Jungle Book (1967)
Kung Fu Panda
Kung Fu Panda 2
Kung Fu Panda 3
Lilo and Stitch
Man of Steel

Meet the Robinsons
Penguins of Madagascar
Remember My Story:
ReMoved Part Two Rio 2
Secondhand Lions
Somewhere Between
Star Wars: Episode I – The
Phantom Menace Star
Wars: Episode II – Attack of
the Clones Star Wars:
Episode III – Revenge of the
Sith
Star Wars: Episode IV – A
New Hope
Star Wars: Episode V – The
Empire Strikes Back Star
Wars: Episode VI – Return
of the Jedi
Star Wars: Episode VII –
The Force Awakens
Superman: The Movie
Tangled Up

Grown-Ups

Antwone Fisher
Belle
Big Daddy
Big Hero 6
The Blind Side
Camp

Chimpanzee
Closure
Creed
Delivery Man
Finding Dory
I Am Sam
Ida
Into the Woods
Kung Fu Panda
Kung Fu Panda 2
Kung Fu Panda 3
Man of Steel
Martian Child
Moonrise Kingdom
The Odd Life of Timothy Green
Planes: Fire and Rescue
Remember My Story: ReMoved Part 2
ReMoved
Rio 2
St. Vincent
Secondhand Lions
Somewhere Between
Star Wars: Episode I – The Phantom Menace
Star Wars: Episode II – Attack of the Clones
Star Wars: Episode III – Revenge of the Sith
Star Wars: Episode IV – A New Hope
Star Wars: Episode V – The Empire Strikes Back
Star Wars: Episode VI – Return of the Jedi
Star Wars: Episode VII – The Force Awakens

Superman: The Movie

Tangled

Up

MOVIES BY DISCUSSION TOPIC

This non-exhaustive index is to help you find a film to talk about a specific topic. Please check out the full reviews in this book to help you decide which film best suits your needs.

Feeling Abandoned

Antwone Fisher

The Blind Side

Instant Family

Martian Child

Absent Parents

The Blind Side

Creed

Delivery Man

How to Train Your Dragon 2

Instant Family

Kung Fu Panda 3

Man of Steel

Star Wars: Episode I – The Phantom Menace Up

Abuse Experienced

Antwone Fisher

Camp

Cinderella (2015)

ReMoved

Secondhand Lions

Adoptive Family as Normal Life

Choose Your Own Adventure: The Abominable Snowman

Despicable Me 2

Kung Fu Panda

St. Vincent

Somewhere Between

Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles (2014)

Birth Parents and Birth Family

Antwone Fisher

Belle

The Boxtrolls

Closure

Creed

Delivery Man

How to Train Your Dragon 2

I Am Sam

Ida

Kung Fu Panda 3

Instant Family

Man of Steel

Meet the Robinsons

Remember My Story: ReMoved Part Two Rio 2

Star Wars Episodes I-VI, as a unit. Individually, Episodes III, V, VI and VII.

Somewhere Between
The Tigger Movie

***Considering Adoption, and journeying towards adoption –
Movies for folks who want to adopt***

Big Daddy
Blind Side
The Camp (2013 version)
Closure
Delivery Man
I Am Sam
Ida
Instant Family
Martian Child
Odd Life of Timothy Green
The Remember
My Story: ReMoved Part 2
ReMoved
Somewhere Between

Cross-Cultural Adoption

Belle
Blind Side
The Boxtrolls
Choose Your Own Adventure: The Abominable Snowman
Closure
Ernest and Celestine

Instant Family
Kung Fu Panda 2
Kung Fu Panda 3
Man of Steel
Mr. Peabody and Sherman
Paddington
Rio 2
Somewhere Between
Superman: The Movie
Tarzan
Tarzan II
Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles (2014)

Dad adoption

Big Daddy
The Boxtrolls
Chimpanzee
Despicable Me
Despicable Me 2
Kung Fu Panda
Kung Fu Panda 2
Kung Fu Panda 3
Martian Child
Mr. Peabody and Sherman
Moonrise Kingdom
Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles (2014)

Dealing with People who Oppose Adoption

Big Daddy
The Blind Side
Instant Family
Martian Child
Tangled

Divided Loyalties

Annie (1999)
Instant Family
Kung Fu Panda 3
Star Wars: Episode VII – The Force Awakens

Emotions

Antwone Fisher
Closure
Divergent
Instant Family
Martian Child
Planes
Planes: Fire and Rescue
Remember My Story: ReMoved Part Two
Star Wars Episodes I-VII, collectively

Family Defined

Belle
The Boxtrolls
Creed
Lilo and Stitch
Paddington

Family Formation

Angels in the Outfield
Big Daddy
The Blind Side
The Boxtrolls
Camp
Chimpanzee
Closure
Creed
Curly Top
Delivery Man
Despicable Me
Divergent
Ernest and Celestine
Instant Family
Into the Woods
Kung Fu Panda 2
Kung Fu Panda 3
Lilo and Stitch
Martian Child

Meet the Robinsons
The Odd Life of Timothy Green
Paddington
Secondhand Lions
Somewhere Between
Star Wars: Episode I – The Phantom Menace
Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles (2014)
Turbo

Fitting In and Belonging; Family Roles

The Blind Side
Choose Your Own Adventure: The Abominable Snowman
Instant Family
Kung Fu Panda 3
Man of Steel
Martian Child
Paddington
Penguins of Madagascar Rio 2
Tarzan
Tarzan II

Foster Care

Angels in the Outfield
Annie (1999)
Antwone Fisher
Camp
Earth to Echo

Ernest and Celestine
I Am Sam
Instant Family
Jungle Book (1967)
Lilo and Stitch
Martian Child
Moonrise Kingdom
Paddington
Remember My Story: ReMoved Part Two ReMoved
Secondhand Lions

God in Adoption

Camp
Somewhere Between

Identity Development and Identity Shared Between Two Families

The Boxtrolls
Choose Your Own Adventure: The Abominable Snowman
Closure
Creed Divergent
How to Train Your Dragon 2
Ida
Kung Fu Panda 2
Kung Fu Panda 3
Man of Steel
Mr. Peabody and Sherman
Penguins of Madagascar

Remember My Story: ReMoved Part Two
Rio 2
Secondhand Lions
Somewhere Between
Star Wars: Episode I – The Phantom Menace
Star Wars: Episode V – The Empire Strikes Back
Star Wars: Episode VI – Return of the Jedi
Star Wars: Episode VII – The Force Awakens
Superman: The Movie
Tarzan
Tarzan II
The Tigger Movie

Infertility

Into the Woods
The Odd Life of Timothy Green
Up

Loss

Big Hero 6
Chimpanzee
Creed
Finding Dory
Frozen
How to Train Your Dragon 2
Instant Family
Man of Steel

Martian Child

Remember My Story: ReMoved Part Two

St. Vincent

Star Wars: Episode I – The Phantom Menace

Star Wars: Episode II – Attack of the Clones

Star Wars: Episode IV – A New Hope

Star Wars: Episode V – The Empire Strikes Back

Star Wars: Episode VI – Return of the Jedi

Superman: The Movie

Maintaining Relationships over Distance

Earth to Echo

Remember My Story: ReMoved Part Two

Relative Adoption

Belle

Big Hero 6

Creed

Lilo and Stitch

Secondhand Lions

Relinquishment

Man of Steel

Superman: The Movie

Reunion

Antwone Fisher

The Boxtrolls

Closure

Delivery Man

Finding Dory

Ida

Kung Fu Panda 3

Man of Steel

Meet the Robinsons

Rio 2

Somewhere Between

Star Wars Episodes I-VI, collectively, but especially Episodes V and VI seen together

Superman: The Movie

Secrets

The Boxtrolls

Closure

Curly Top

Delivery Man

Ernest and Celestine

Frozen

Ida

Kung Fu Panda 2

Man of Steel

The Odd Life of Timothy Green

Planes

Star Wars: Episode III – Revenge of the Sith
Star Wars: Episode IV – A New Hope
Star Wars: Episode V – The Empire Strikes Back
Star Wars: Episode VI – Return of the Jedi
Superman: The Movie

Self-acceptance

Antwone Fisher
Belle
Kung Fu Panda 3
Man of Steel
Tarzan II

Self-blame

Finding Dory
Siblings
Closure
Curly Top
Delivery Man
Despicable Me
Despicable Me 2
Frozen
Lilo and Stitch
Remember My Story: ReMoved Part Two
ReMoved
Star Wars Episodes V and VI, collectively
Turbo

Single-Parent Adoptions

Despicable Me 2

Martian Child

Moonrise Kingdom

ReMoved

Social Workers

Big Daddy

Instant Family

Lilo and Stitch

Mr. Peabody and Sherman

Moonrise Kingdom

Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles (2014)

Therapy

Antwone Fisher

Remember My Story: ReMoved Part Two

Understanding Difficult or Confusing Behaviors

Antwone Fisher

The Blind Side

Camp

Martian Child

Remember My Story: ReMoved Part Two ReMoved

Waiting to be Adopted

Annie (1999)

Meet the Robinsons

Paddington

Secondhand Lions

Worries that Adoption is a “second” choice, and second choices in general

Planes: Fire and Rescue Up