



FilmEd Classroom
**Films to Engage Students in
Meaningful Conversation**

FILM GUIDE

01 WASH DAY

GRADES 3-5

JAIDA SALMON | CANADA

ANIMATED SHORT FILM | FICTION | 2:17 MINUTES | 2019

Subtheme: Self-Identity, Girls' POV

PART IV

BEHIND THE SCENES

LEARN ABOUT THE FILMMAKER & FILMMAKING PROCESS

WASH DAY is by the filmmaker Jaida Salmon, who wrote the story, designed the character and backgrounds (the settings), and animated the film while studying to be an animator.

CONSIDER THE FILMMAKER'S STYLE & TECHNIQUES

Pose the questions below before showing the film once again and let students take notes while they watch. Encourage them to use adjectives or short phrases to respond to the following:

- How would you describe the colors of the film? How do these colors make you feel?
- The film stills included here can also be used to prompt responses.
- How did the sounds and music included in the film make you feel? (Try playing the film with the volume down to see how it is different without any sound.)

- Are there other creative details in the film that you noticed?

CONSIDER THE FILMMAKER'S UNDERLYING MESSAGE

Questions to help students understand that everything they saw and heard in the film was the result of an intentional decision made by Jaida Salmon.

- Why do you think Jaida Salmon might have wanted to tell this story?
- Why do you think she might have chosen to tell the story in this way? (Here you can reference the answers to the previous set of questions.)
- Why do you think she might have chosen to use **animation** instead of **live action** to tell this story?

ABOUT THE FILMMAKER: JAIDA SALMON

Jaida Salmon is the director and animator of the film WASH DAY. Jaida studied animation at Sheridan College, in Ontario, Canada, where she learned to animate and created the film WASH DAY. She now works as an animator and compositor at the studio Atomic Cartoons. She loves all things creative.

Q&A WITH THE FILMMAKER

Let students know that while the filmmaker might have had a message or idea in mind, we are all welcome to interpret the film in our own way.

Are there aspects about WASH DAY that are autobiographical? Was Zoey's character inspired by anyone?

Yes absolutely! Practically the whole story is autobiographical. I actually penned the original comic which inspired this short during one of my own "wash days." In creating my protagonist, Zoey, I took elements from myself and my sisters to create her personality.

What message do you hope young audiences leave with after watching WASH DAY?

My mission statement while creating this film was “for those who know—can relate, for those who don’t know—can learn, and for everyone to enjoy.” I wanted those who also go through this process to feel seen. I understand the struggle it can be to deal with our hair and I’m right there with you. I wanted those who don’t know to learn about the process—without having to take them by the hand and explain everything, instead I’m giving them a chance to peer in and see for themselves. And I did this in a way that both groups can enjoy.

What do you like most about animation?

I find animation to be a lot more forgiving than live-action. I absolutely love both mediums (I actually wanted to be an actress and film director before I wanted to be an animator), but I think my love for drawing swept me into the world of animation. With animation you can tell the most captivating stories with the simplest of characters and settings.

What is something that you think people don’t know about being an animator?

Animation takes a loooooong time. My 2 minute film took me 8 months to complete!

What is some advice you would give to young students interested in filmmaking?

Watch a lot of movies! From various genres, and time periods and countries. When you watch a movie you like, ask yourself “Why [did I like it]?” When you watch a movie you didn’t like, ask yourself, “Why [didn’t I like it]?” Read books, listen to music, and look at artwork. Don’t close yourself off to one medium—good filmmaking is good storytelling and there’s good storytelling across all mediums. Study life, study yourself, take the time to know your perspective and perception of the world around you (it helps in finding your creative voice). But most importantly start making things NOW. With whatever tools you have at your disposal. You don’t need fancy equipment—you just need a good story, and a good story starts with you! ■