



PADDINGTON

What's the film about

This film tells the story of the comic misadventures of a young Peruvian bear who travels to the city in search of a home. Finding himself lost and alone, he begins to realize that city life is not all he had imagined - until he meets the kindly Brown family who read the label around his neck that says "Please look after this bear. Thank you," and offer him a temporary haven. It looks as though his luck has changed until this rarest of bears catches the eye of a museum taxidermist.

Discussion topics

Family, welcoming, hospitality, strangers, refugees, immigration, responsibility, whānau, society.

Questions

1. Why does Paddington travel from Peru to London, England? (The family dreams of visiting the London the explorer told them about, where he promised they would always receive a warm welcome. When a violent storm destroys their idyllic life, Aunt Lucy sends her nephew to fulfil the family dream.)
2. "They will not have forgotten how to treat a stranger."
– Aunt Lucy
Why does Aunt Lucy think that British people will look after Paddington? How is Paddington treated when he arrives in London and why do you think people treat him like that? How do you think we should treat people who are new to this country, or to our schools or friendship groups?
3. "This family needed that bear, every much as he needed you." – Mrs Bird (Julie Walters)
What effect does Paddington have on the Brown household? How do the different members of the Brown family change through knowing Paddington? How did you respond to the film's portrayal of the family dynamic?
4. Mary: *We can't just leave him here.*
Henry: *Of course we can, he's not our responsibility.*
Do Mary and Henry have any responsibility for Paddington? What responsibility, if any, do we have for people who aren't part of our family or social circle? How do we define what is our responsibility and what isn't?
5. Mary: *Paddington's the best thing that's happened to the children, they're happy.*
Henry: *How can they be happy if they're not safe?*
Why is Henry concerned about having Paddington in his house? How have Judy and Jonathan been affected by Henry's obsession with safety? How do your parents try to make sure you are both happy and safe?
6. "We love Paddington and that makes him family." – Mary
Do you know any people that you would call family, but who aren't related to you? How did these relationships come about? To what extent is the old saying 'blood is thicker than water' true, and how does the story of Paddington challenge this concept of family?

