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THE PALEY CENTER FOR MEDIA

PALEY EDUCATION @Home
presented by **citi**

What We're Watching



Greetings from The Paley Center for Media's Education Department!

Welcome to the latest installment of “What We’re Watching.” Twice a month the education department reaches out to the community with tips and ideas for consuming media with kids by highlighting different themes that connect to two selected programs, one for younger viewers and one for older viewers, each with related activities and resources.

Watching media alongside your kids is a perfect jumping-off point to making media literacy a part of your everyday lives. Familiarizing yourself with the basics is a great first step. You can [view our first newsletter about media literacy best practices archived here](#). We also recommend the [National Association for Media Literacy Education's Parents Guide](#)—it's a terrific introduction!

What We're Watching: Howl at the Moon

In classic children's tales, wolf characters are commonly portrayed as bloodthirsty villains. Think *Little Red Riding Hood* or *The Boy Who Cried Wolf* where the wolf is feared and meant to teach kids behavioral lessons. However, in more modern narratives, like the ones in our recommendations, the wolf is depicted as an outcast bringing more empathy and relatability to the sharp toothed canine than in older stories. In both the TV show and movie we are sharing with you this week, the wolf-ish characters struggle to be accepted by society and it is not until they find the right people and environment to live in that they are able to thrive and become their true selves. Join us as we howl at the moon.

This Week's Recommendations for Younger Viewers

Wolfboy and the Everything Factory: "Wolfboy Finds Adventure" E1 (2021)

Recommended for Grades 2+

Available on Apple TV+

This fantasy adventure series follows Wolfboy, an imaginative oddball who unapologetically wears a wolf mask at all times. In the first episode, Wolfboy spies curious-looking creatures at his new boarding school and follows them down a glowing portal where he discovers a strange realm at the center of the Earth where fantastical beings called Sprytes create things for the world on the surface. With the help of his newfound friends, Wolfboy learns that not only can he use the creative energy of the Everything Factory to make his imagination come to life, but comes to realize that being different is what makes him special.

Viewing Questions

- How do the kids treat Wolfboy when he arrives at his new school?
- What does he discover outside the walls of the school?
- When he jumps through the portal, where does he land?
- How is the world different in this new place?
- What new friends does he make?
- What is his cloud friend Floofy like?
- When Floofy fails to pass the cloud test, what happens and why?
- How does Wolfboy calm Floofy down and restore peace to the realm?

Additional Resources

Read

The Three Little Wolves and the Big Bad Pig by Eugene Trivizas

The True Story of the Three Little Pigs by John Scieszka

Watch

[How to Animate a Character](#)

[How to Draw a Spryte](#)

The Bad Guys (2022)

Happily Ever After: Fairy Tales for Every Child: Little Red Riding Hood (1995)

Peter and the Wolf (2006)

Wolfwalkers (2020)



This Week's Recommendations for Older Viewers

Wolf Children (2012)

Recommended for Grades 7+

Available on Crunchyroll

Wolf Children is a Japanese anime drama about a young woman named Hana, who falls in love with a werewolf while in college. The wolfman dies suddenly one day when he is out finding food for the family, and Hana is left alone to raise their half-wolf/half-human children, Ame and Yuki, who eventually grow and find their own paths in life. Beautifully animated, the film explores themes of love between parents and children, the challenges of raising children as a single mother, and letting children become who they are meant to be.

Viewing Questions

- How do the parents meet at the beginning of the film?
- When does the man decide to share his secret with Hana and why?
- How does his death impact Hana and the children?
- Why can't they stay in the city?
- Where do they move and why is it better for them there?
- Which child identifies more with being a wolf and who identifies more with being human? How does this change as they start to grow older?
- What happens to each character by the end of the film?

- What central themes of the film resonated with you most and why?

Additional Resources

Read

Shiver by Maggie Steifvater

The Werewolf of Paris by Guy Endore

Watch

Princess Mononoke (1997)

Teen Wolf (2011–17)

Teen Wolf (1985)

As always, if you have any questions, thoughts, or ideas, don't hesitate to reach out to us at eduny@paleycenter.org.

Happy viewing,

Rebekah Fisk

Director of Education

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Manager of Education

Photos—*Wolfboy and the Everything Factory*: Apple TV+; *Wolf Children*: Toho Co.

Apply for a Paid Internship to Join the Next Generation of TV Executives

APPLY NOW

The **Peter Roth Internship Program @PALEY**



Made possible by generous support from:

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The Peter Roth Internship Program, named in honor of the legendary television executive, offers a paid internship for 20 talented undergraduate students from diverse backgrounds and underserved communities who are interested in a career in television.

Interns will work for the Paley Center where they will be provided practical experience and valuable understanding of the television and streaming industries. Using the renowned Paley Archive and unmatched collection of television programming, the Paley Center offers a comprehensive and inclusive course for students to recognize the value of diversity both in front of and behind the camera.

Spread the word to the students in your life!

The deadline to apply is Tuesday, January 16, 2024.

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