



THE PALEY CENTER FOR MEDIA

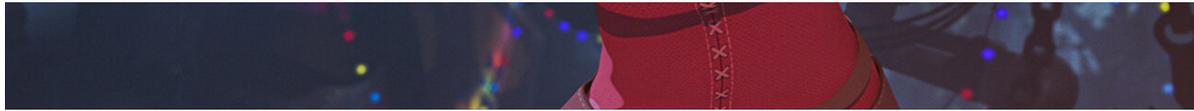
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What We're Watching





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: Page to Screen

So many movies today have been adapted from comic books and graphic novels that sometimes it's hard to keep track of them all. As fans of both types of media, we embrace this trend. Some of the most creative character designs and world building are drawn onto comic book pages. This week we are recommending two animated programs, both featuring beautiful animation and powerful heroines who fight to save their worlds in very different ways. We hope they inspire you to read the source material of the same name.

This Week's Recommendations for Younger Viewers

Nimona (2023)

Recommended for Grades 3+

Available on Netflix

Academy Award–nominee *Nimona* is an animated LGBTQ+ positive fantasy adventure based on the 2015 graphic novel by ND Stevenson. The story is about Ballister Boldheart, a knight in a futuristic medieval world, who is framed for a crime

he didn't commit, and the only one who can help him prove his innocence, Nimona, is a mischievous teen who also happens to be a shapeshifting creature Ballister has been trained to destroy. Over the course of the movie, the lines between heroes, villains, and monsters blur, and the two set out to wreak serious havoc. One of the great things about the film is the way that Nimona questions the tropes of classic fantasy stories when classified as a "monster." The story admirably delves into how such monsters are in fact created by a society that refuses to accept their differences. Ultimately the movie sends positive messages about standing up to authority, being true to yourself and accepting people as they are.

Viewing Questions

- Describe Nimona. Describe Ballister. How are they different and similar?
- What happens to Ballister at the beginning of the movie?
- Do you consider him a hero or villain?
- If you were the kingdom's villain, how would you have reacted to Nimona requesting to be your sidekick?
- Between Ballister and Nimona, whose tactics are better for fighting the king? What are each of their talents?
- Find out the symbolism of certain animals that Nimona often transforms into. How does she use the abilities of each of these animals? What do they mean to her?
- How does Ballister convince Ambrosius that Nimona isn't dangerous?
- What leads to Nimona's transformation at the end of the movie?

Additional Resources

Read

[Art of Nimona](#)

Nimona by ND Stevenson

Luberjanes by Shannon Watters, Grace Ellis, Gus Allen, and ND Stevenson

Listen

[Pop Culture Happy Hour: "Nimona is a shapeshifting fantasy about embracing your true self."](#)

Watch

Luca (2021)

Ponyo (2008)

Ruby Gillman, Teenage Kraken (2023)

Turning Red (2022)



This Week's Recommendations for Older Viewers

Scott Pilgrim Takes Off: "A League of Their Own" (2023)

Recommended for Grades 8+

Available on Netflix

This anime series, set in Toronto, is a new version of the original *Scott Pilgrim* graphic novel series and movie. If you are a fan of the originals then you already know that Scott Pilgrim is a bassist in an indie band who falls in love with Ramona Flowers, a mysterious delivery girl, attracting the attention of her seven evil exes. Things take an unexpected turn in this retelling when Scott loses his battle against Ramona's first evil ex, Matthew Patel, and is seemingly killed. As the trajectory of everyone's lives changes as a result, Ramona learns that Scott may still be alive and investigates his disappearance. *Takes Off* follows Ramona as she tries to find out who is responsible for Scott vanishing. Episode two is where the story really begins to detour. We recommend changing your audio to the Japanese dub version while you watch this incredibly fun show.

Viewing Questions

- How do Scott's friends respond to his death?
- While Envy Adams sings at Scott's funeral, who gets invitations to Gideon's lair?
- What happens when Ramona's evil exes gather?
- What does Gideon lose when he fights Matthew Patel?
- How does Ramona find out Scott is alive at the end of the show?
- Compare the series art direction to the comic book. What is the same and different about them?
- If you have seen the film, how does this series compare, and which do you like better and why?

Additional Resources

Read

American Born Chinese by Gene Luen Yang

Ghost World by Daniel Clowes

Paper Girls by Brian K. Vaughn

Scott Pilgrim series by Bryan Lee O'Malley

Watch

[BTS Scott Pilgrim](#)

Naomi (2022)

Ready Player One (2018)

Scott Pilgrim vs. the World (2010)

Umbrella Academy (2019–24)

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

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Manager of Education

Photos—*Nimona*: Disney; *Scott Pilgrim Takes Off*: Netflix



The Hearst High School Media Internship

Summer 2024

The Hearst High School Media Internship at The Paley Center for Media is a 5-week, paid, best-in-class media-focused summer internship for rising 11th and 12th grade students. The program will encompass Media Literacy and Digital Learning, Media Career Development, and Mentorship. The program offers students the opportunity to develop the knowledge, skills, and network necessary to prepare for college and to break into the media and entertainment industry.

This program is made possible by the generous support from

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