

## Online Resources for Accessing and Teaching National Film Board Short Films

### **Blackfly (song)**

This animated film about the pesky blackfly is based on the song of the same title, written and sung by Canadian folk singer Wade Hemsworth, with back-up vocals by the McGarrigle sisters. It recounts Hemsworth's battles with this quintessential "critter" during a summer of surveying in Northern Ontario.

*Christopher Hinton, 1991, 5 min 10 s*

<https://www.nfb.ca/film/blackfly>

### **Bully Dance (no dialogue)**

This short animated film examines the roles of peer pressure, accountability and power struggles in bullying – a pervasive phenomenon. When a bully picks on a smaller member of his group, the whole community becomes involved. The bully, they learn, is himself a victim at home. *Bully Dance* is part of [ShowPeace](#), a series of lively, animated films about conflict resolution.

*Janet Perlman, 2000, 10 min 14 s*

[https://www.nfb.ca/film/bully\\_dance](https://www.nfb.ca/film/bully_dance)

### **Cornet at Night**

Based on a short story by Sinclair Ross, this short film recalls rural life on the Prairies in the 1930s. In the film a farmer's young son, sent to town to hire a man for the harvest, readily accepts when an itinerant trumpet player, down on his luck, begs a chance. He is hardly the kind of man the boy's father had in mind, but that night his trumpet speaks from the shadows and everyone pauses to listen.

*Stanley Jackson, 1963, 14 min 41 s*

[https://www.nfb.ca/film/cornet\\_at\\_night](https://www.nfb.ca/film/cornet_at_night)

### **Dinner for Two (no dialogue)**

When it comes to conflict, even chameleons won't change! Peace in the rain forest is disrupted when two chameleons literally get stuck in a conflict, with catastrophic results. Relationships are severed, opportunities are lost, innocent bystanders are harmed and violence seems imminent. Luckily for the lizards, a frog observing the fracas turns into exactly what they need - no, not a prince - a mediator. *Dinner for Two* tackles conflict in a lively, humorous and provocative way. It shows that amidst the chaos that differences create, there are still paths to reconciliation. This film is part of the [ShowPeace](#) series of

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lively animated films about conflict resolution. This series has received support from UNICEF and Justice Canada.

*Janet Perlman, 1996, 7 min 18 s*

[https://www.nfb.ca/film/dinner\\_for\\_two](https://www.nfb.ca/film/dinner_for_two)

### **Elbow Room (no dialogue)**

This animated short tackles the subjects of personal space, conflict and conflict resolution in the workplace. At the office, tempers flare as two coworkers who are sitting dangerously close find themselves bumping elbows and spilling ink. The film demonstrates four common approaches to interpersonal tensions: retreat, aggression, denial and - finally - negotiation. This film is part of the [ShowPeace](#) series of lively animated films about conflict resolution. This series has received support from UNICEF and Justice Canada.

*Diane Obomsawin, 2002, 8 min 19 s*

[https://www.nfb.ca/film/elbow\\_room](https://www.nfb.ca/film/elbow_room)

### **Film Club**

This documentary brings together a group of long-lost classmates who used to belong to an after-school film club. Formed at the initiative of a Grade 8 teacher eager to pass along his love of cinema, the club attracted a klatch of immigrant kids eager to embrace their new country. Stimulating and creative, the club was a complete departure from anything they had known and provided a safe haven from the harsh world around them. Together, they made a tiny 8mm award-winner called *Ohh Canada*. Twenty-five years later, the group looks back to marvel at their childhood dreams and the bond they share with the teacher who brought them together. This film was produced as part of the Reel Diversity Competition for emerging filmmakers of colour. Reel Diversity is a National Film Board of Canada initiative in partnership with CBC Newsworld.

*Cyrus Sundar Singh, 2001, 44 min 53 s*

[https://www.nfb.ca/film/film\\_club](https://www.nfb.ca/film/film_club)

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## George and Rosemary

This animated romantic comedy about two golden agers proves that passion is not exclusively for the young. With humour and empathy, it tells of George's affection for his female neighbour and the outcome of his decision to quit daydreaming and take action.

*David Fine & Alison Snowden, 1987, 8 min 48 s*

[https://www.nfb.ca/film/george\\_and\\_rosemary](https://www.nfb.ca/film/george_and_rosemary)

## Getting Started (limited dialogue)

This hilarious short animated film stars a man who procrastinates. Our hero attempts to practice a piece of music on the piano, but distractions get in the way. When he finally sits down to play, pandemonium breaks loose.

*Richard Condie, 1979, 12 min 22 s*

[https://www.nfb.ca/film/getting\\_started](https://www.nfb.ca/film/getting_started)

## Log Driver's Waltz (song)

This lighthearted, animated short is based on the song "The Log Driver's Waltz" by Wade Hemsworth. Easily one of the most often-requested films in the NFB collection, Kate and Anna McGarrigle sing along to the tale of a young girl who loves to dance and chooses to marry a log driver over his more well-to-do competitor. Driving logs down the river has made the young man the best dancing partner to be found.

*ONFB, 1979, 3 min*

[https://www.nfb.ca/film/log\\_drivers\\_waltz](https://www.nfb.ca/film/log_drivers_waltz)

## Meltdown

In this short animation, a polar bear must try his luck finding a job in the big city when the last of his Arctic ice environment disappears. It's hard fitting into the human world, however, so this bear finds a more creative solution to his predicament. This film was made as part of the 8th edition of the NFB's [Hothouse](#) apprenticeship.

*ONFB, 2012, 1 min 27 s*

<https://www.nfb.ca/film/meltdown>

## My Financial Career

An animated film based on Stephen Leacock's witty account of a young man's first brush with banking. When he tries to make his deposit, he is so intimidated by the institution that nothing he says comes out right.

*Gerald Potterton, 1962, 6 min 30 s*

[https://www.nfb.ca/film/my\\_financial\\_career](https://www.nfb.ca/film/my_financial_career)

## Shinny - The Hockey in All of Us

This feature documentary captures Canada's favourite sport in its purest form: on the backyard rink, frozen pond, or icy street where it's played by men and women, boys and girls, retirees and up-and-comers, prime ministers and plumbers. Director David Battistella explores the unwritten codes learned on ponds and backyard rinks, which are passed down from generation to generation. The film shines its spotlight on a few of the millions in Canada who have written their own rules of this much-loved game.

*David Battistella, 2001, 72 min 55 s*

\*Recommended to watch in sections, rather than all at once

N.B.: Some later sections show a "return" to the same rink/location as was introduced in earlier sections

*Intro.: 00:09 – 02:32 – frozen lake in Western Canada*

*Section One: 03:03 – 06:01 – Carleton Heights Rink, Ottawa, Ontario (preparing the rink in autumn)*

*Section Two: 06:09 – 08:52 – Toronto Hockey Store and Repair, Toronto, Ontario (discussing equipment)*

*Section Three: 09:09 – 12:50 – Vermilion Lakes, Banff National Park, Banff, Alberta (playing hockey on a frozen lake)*

*Section Four: 13:19 – 18:11 – Orangeville, Ontario (building one family's backyard rink; basement hockey)*

*Section Five: 18:25 – 21:33 – Rideau Hall\*\* Rink, Ottawa, Ontario (history of this special "backyard" rink; preparing and then playing hockey on the rink) \*\* residence of the Governor General of Canada*

*Section Six: 21:52 – 23:45 – Bow River, Banff, Alberta (newly-arrived Australian enjoying hockey on a frozen river)*

*Section Seven: 23:47 – 26:10 – Staley Backyard Rink, Orangeville, Ontario (same rink as in Section Four; playing night hockey)*

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*Section Eight: 26:12 – 29:12 – Carleton Heights Rink, Ottawa, Ontario (flooding the rink, Christmas and hockey)*

*Section Nine: 29:13 – 32:04 – The Ice Road, Yellowknife, Northwest Territories (seems to follow on from Section Two – hockey memories from the 1950; transporting donated hockey equipment to children in Northern Canada)*

*Section Ten: 32:05 – 33:55 – Rideau Hall Rink, Ottawa, Ontario (commentary from the Right Honourable Adrienne Clarkson, Governor General of Canada from 1999 to 2005)*

*Section Eleven: 34:15 – 37:27 – Dill Family Farm, Windsor, Nova Scotia (commentary; this property is the birthplace of hockey)*

*Section Twelve: 37:32 – 39:55 – Carleton Heights Rink, Ottawa, Ontario (commentary on ice rink maintenance, puck traditions, playing hockey)*

*Section Thirteen: 40:21 – 44:50 – The Open Prairie, Wilcox, Saskatchewan (playing hockey on the frozen open prairie; hockey as a family event)*

*Section Fourteen: 45:37 – 48:00 – Westmount Rink, Montréal, Quebec (commentary from author Roch Carrier, tying the spirit and philosophy of hockey in with his short story “The Sweater”)*

*Section Fifteen: 48:05 – 50:44 – Parc Extension, Montréal, Quebec (commentary from retired Montreal Canadiens player Richard “Dickie” Moore on playing hockey as a boy, sometimes playing shinny hockey with kids as a professional player, and the value of shinny hockey)*

*Section Sixteen: 51:16 – 54:31 – Lake Louise, near the Alberta-BC border (Fairmont Chateau Lake Louise staff enjoying hockey and camaraderie)*

*Section Seventeen: 54:33 – 56:54 – Kugluktuk, Nunavut (Inuit resident talking about and playing hockey in the “front yards”; the challenge of affording hockey skates and equipment)*

*Section Eighteen: 56:55 – 59:00 – World’s Largest Rink, The Arctic Ocean (mixed-age Inuit residents enjoying hockey together, many without hockey skates; discussing the challenge of affording hockey skates and equipment)*

*Section Nineteen: 59:20 – 61:30 – outdoor rink in Ottawa, Ontario (commentary from the Right Honourable Jean Chrétien, Prime Minister of Canada from 1993 to 2003; the last bit is in French with English subtitles)*

*Section Twenty: 61:31 – 63:04 – Carleton Heights Rink, Ottawa, Ontario (commentary from ice rink maintenance staff member on the benefits of kids playing hockey and why he loves his work)*

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*Section Twenty-One: 63:05 – 67:52 – Nunavut (commentary from the Inuit resident in Section Seventeen on setting a good example by donating hockey equipment to local Inuit children; children happily receiving the donated equipment)*

[https://www.nfb.ca/film/shinny\\_the\\_hockey](https://www.nfb.ca/film/shinny_the_hockey)

### **The Big Snit**

This poignant and hilarious animated film perfectly captures the intersection of a domestic quarrel and a global nuclear war. An Oscar® nominee enjoyed by millions of fans, this film is a classic example of Richard Condie's off-the-wall humour.

*Richard Condie, 1985, 9 min 54 s*

[https://www.nfb.ca/film/big\\_snit](https://www.nfb.ca/film/big_snit)

### **The Railrodder (no dialogue)**

This short film stars Buster Keaton in one of the last films of his long career. As "the railrodder", Keaton crosses Canada from east to west on a railway track speeder. True to Keaton's genre, the film is full of sight gags as our protagonist putt-putts his way to British Columbia. Not a word is spoken throughout, and Keaton is as spry and ingenious at fetching laughs as he was in the old days of the silent slapsticks. For more background information about this film, visit the [NFB.ca blog](#).

*Gerald Potterton, 1965, 24 min 47 s*

<https://www.nfb.ca/film/railrodder>

### **The Ride (no dialogue)**

This short film depicts the daydream of a chauffeur awaiting his employer. On a hot summer day, he begins to imagine that it's winter—the residential street where he's parked transforms into snowy mountains, and a series of comic misadventures begin. As the car is replaced by a toboggan, it carries the tycoon away on a dizzying ride. The chase includes some unforgettable antics in the snow, including a piggyback ride on an incredulous skier.

*Gerald Potterton, 1963, 6 min 40 s*

<https://www.nfb.ca/film/ride>

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## The Sweater

In this animated short, Roch Carrier recounts the most mortifying moment of his childhood. At a time when all his friends worshipped Maurice "Rocket" Richard and wore his number 9 Montreal Canadiens hockey jersey, the boy was mistakenly sent a Toronto Maple Leafs jersey from Eaton's. Unable to convince his mother to send it back, he must face his friends wearing the colours of the opposing team. This short film, based on the book *The Hockey Sweater*, is an NFB classic that appeals to hockey lovers of all ages.

*Sheldon Cohen*, 1980, 10 min 21 s

<https://www.nfb.ca/film/sweater>

## When the Dust Settles

This animated short features two neighbouring gophers with very un-neighbourly appetites for anger and revenge. By sundown, they have destroyed everything... even their homes. Will they be able to put the pieces back together? *When the Dust Settles* is part of [ShowPeace](#), a series of lively, animated films designed to explore conflict and dispute resolution.

*Louise Johnson*, 1997, 7 min 11 s

[https://www.nfb.ca/film/when\\_the\\_dust\\_settles](https://www.nfb.ca/film/when_the_dust_settles)