

# newsies viewing guide answer keys

**Newsies viewing guide answer keys** are essential tools for educators and students alike, especially when engaging with the film adaptation of the Broadway musical "Newsies." This movie, which tells the story of young newspaper boys fighting for their rights in the late 19th century, not only captivates audiences with its catchy songs and dynamic choreography but also provides rich historical context and themes relevant to discussions about labor rights, activism, and social justice. This article aims to offer an insightful viewing guide that educators can use to enhance students' understanding of "Newsies," as well as answer keys to facilitate deeper discussions.

## Overview of "Newsies"

"Newsies," originally a film released by Disney in 1992, became a Broadway musical in 2012, garnering critical acclaim and a dedicated fan base. The story centers around a group of newsboys in New York City who organize a strike against the powerful newspaper magnate, Joseph Pulitzer, in response to unfair working conditions and low wages. The film and musical highlight themes of camaraderie, determination, and the importance of standing up for one's rights.

## Purpose of a Viewing Guide

A viewing guide serves multiple purposes:

- **Enhancing Engagement:** Guides help students focus on key themes, characters, and historical context while watching.
- **Facilitating Discussion:** After viewing, guides can spark meaningful conversations about the issues presented in the film.
- **Assessing Understanding:** Teachers can evaluate students' comprehension and analytical skills through answer keys that accompany the guide.

## Components of the Newsies Viewing Guide

When creating a viewing guide for "Newsies," educators should consider several components that will encourage critical thinking and reflection:

### 1. Character Analysis

Understanding the characters is crucial to grasping the narrative and themes. Students should analyze the motivations, development, and relationships of key characters such as:

- Jack Kelly - The charismatic leader of the newsies.
- Davey Jacobs - A newcomer who challenges Jack's ideas and represents the voice of reason.
- Les Jacobs - Davey's younger brother, who embodies youthful optimism.
- Katherine Plumber - A determined reporter who supports the newsies' cause.
- Joseph Pulitzer - The antagonist who symbolizes corporate greed and exploitation.

## **2. Historical Context**

"Newsies" is set against the backdrop of the real-life newsboys' strike of 1899. Discussing this context helps students understand the significance of the events portrayed in the film. Key historical components to explore include:

- The role of child labor in the late 19th century.
- The impact of labor unions and strikes on workers' rights.
- The media's influence on public perception during this era.

## **3. Key Themes**

The film presents several themes that can be explored in-depth:

- Social Justice: The fight against exploitation and the quest for fair treatment.
- Friendship and Loyalty: The bond among the newsboys and their shared struggle.
- Courage and Leadership: Jack's development as a leader and the importance of standing up for one's beliefs.

## **4. Music and Choreography**

Music plays a central role in "Newsies." Students should analyze how the songs enhance the storytelling and convey emotions. Key songs to focus on include:

- "Carrying the Banner"
- "Seize the Day"
- "Santa Fe"

Consider exploring how choreography complements the music and furthers character development.

## **5. Discussion Questions**

Incorporate discussion questions throughout the viewing guide to promote engagement. Here are some to consider:

1. What motivates Jack Kelly to lead the strike?
2. How does the relationship between Jack and Katherine evolve throughout the story?
3. What challenges do the newsies face, and how do they overcome them?
4. How does the film portray the concept of unity among the newsboys?
5. In what ways are the themes of "Newsies" still relevant today?

## **Answer Keys for Discussion Questions**

Providing answer keys for the discussion questions can help teachers facilitate conversations and assess student understanding. Here are suggested answers:

### **1. What motivates Jack Kelly to lead the strike?**

Jack is motivated by a desire for better working conditions and higher wages. He wishes to secure a future for himself and his fellow newsies, and he feels a sense of responsibility as a leader.

### **2. How does the relationship between Jack and Katherine evolve throughout the story?**

Initially, Jack is wary of Katherine's intentions, but as they work together to promote the strike, mutual respect and affection develop. Katherine becomes an ally, and their relationship highlights the importance of collaboration in the fight for justice.

### **3. What challenges do the newsies face, and how do they overcome them?**

The newsies face opposition from Pulitzer and the police, as well as internal conflicts. They overcome these challenges through solidarity, strategic planning, and their determination to fight for their rights.

### **4. How does the film portray the concept of unity among the newsboys?**

The film emphasizes that unity is a source of strength. Despite their diverse backgrounds, the newsies come together to support each other, demonstrating that collective action can bring about change.

### **5. In what ways are the themes of "Newsies" still relevant today?**

Themes of social justice, workers' rights, and the fight against exploitation resonate today, as many individuals and groups continue to advocate for fair treatment in various sectors, including labor,

education, and civil rights.

## **Conclusion**

Utilizing "Newsies" as an educational tool can engage students in discussions about important social issues while fostering critical thinking and empathy. By employing a viewing guide with comprehensive answer keys, educators can enhance the learning experience, ensuring that students not only enjoy the film but also reflect on its significant themes and historical context. As we continue to navigate the complexities of social justice in our own time, the lessons learned from "Newsies" remain as pertinent now as they were over a century ago.

## **Frequently Asked Questions**

### **What are the key themes explored in the 'Newsies' viewing guide?**

The key themes include social justice, the power of collective action, the importance of youth activism, and the struggle against corporate greed.

### **How does the 'Newsies' viewing guide recommend discussing the historical context of the story?**

The guide suggests providing background on the 1899 newsboys strike, discussing the impact of the Industrial Revolution, and exploring the role of child labor in that era.

### **What character analysis techniques does the viewing guide suggest?**

It recommends examining character motivations, relationships, and development throughout the film, as well as their representation of real-life historical figures.

### **What discussion questions are included in the 'Newsies' viewing guide?**

Discussion questions include: 'What motivates the newsies to strike?', 'How do the characters change throughout the film?', and 'What does the film say about the power of the media?'

### **Are there specific scenes highlighted in the viewing guide for critical analysis?**

Yes, the guide highlights scenes such as the strike declaration, the confrontation with Pulitzer, and the song 'Seize the Day' for their emotional and thematic significance.

## **What is the intended educational outcome of using the 'Newsies' viewing guide?**

The intended outcome is to encourage critical thinking about social issues, enhance understanding of historical events, and promote discussions on activism and ethics.

## **Does the viewing guide provide any activities to engage viewers?**

Yes, it includes activities like role-playing debates, creating posters for the strike, and writing reflective essays on the film's message.

## **How does the viewing guide address the music in 'Newsies'?**

The guide discusses how the songs contribute to character development and storytelling, emphasizing the emotional resonance and historical context of the music.

## **What resources are suggested in the viewing guide for further research?**

The guide suggests books on labor history, documentaries about child labor, and articles on the evolution of media coverage of social movements.

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