



*Dear Teachers,*

*This guide has been developed as preparation and follow-up for your screening at the Reel Fun Film Festival of the film "The Eva Saks Films".*

## Film Synopsis

### The Eva Saks Films

Dir. Eva Saks, 2000-2006, USA 53 Mins - English



**The Eva Saks Films:**  
From Sesame Street to NYC

#### Confection

A young girl selects a piece of pastry (confection) at the bakery. On her way of the store, she encounters a homeless man with his hand out. The young girl draws back and sees a poster for a ballet performance. She visualizes that she is that ballerina while balancing her pastry on her hand. The homeless man claps at her performance and she gives him her pastry much to her mother's annoyance.

#### Colorforms

A young girl is exploring the use of finger paints. She covers her mother's white bedspread and dalmation puppy with colour. At her harp music lesson, she rebels and does not play as instructed. Later at the dinner table she tosses her food and covers the bathroom mirror with toothpaste after she is sent to bed. Her grandfather is called in to make her more responsible. He preaches – cleanliness is next to godliness. At the breakfast table, she tosses her napkin and is told they are not leaving the table until she learns some table manners.

Once her parents' leave for work, the grandfather brings her to a strict religious ceremony in the Indo Caribbean community. Everyone is smeared with coloured powder and is saying "Happy Pog Wah". The young girl is enthralled with the activity and lights up when saying "Happy Pog Wah".

Back at home, in the Bergdorf Manner; the young girl and her grandfather are sitting at the table when her parents arrive home from work. They let her parents think they have been there all day. As her parents get ready for the opera, the little girl says "Happy Pog Wah!".

The film is dedicated to messy little girls everywhere.

#### Energy

What is energy? Energy is food and everyone needs a different kind of energy. The film gives several examples of energy and the type of fuel you need to run efficiently.

#### Alphabet Zelda

A young girl is painting the letter Z. She says that Z makes the sound of a bee buzzing. She feels there are zero words that begin with Z. The film follows the girl on her journey where she meets Zachary, a zebra, they zigzag, zilch words, have zucchini soup for dinner and zaboni for dessert.

How many words can you think of that begin with "Z"?



### **Alphabet Pam**

Pam has a passion for the letter P. She goes to a pizza parlor for pepperoni pizza and you follow her on a journey where most of the words begin with the letter P.

A perfect introduction for students to write their own story about one of the letters of the alphabet using as many words as possible that begin with that letter.

### **Kylie Goldstein**

A young girl is born in China and adopted by American parents. She tells about her life and what she wants to be when she grows up. Everyone has a life story to tell.

What is your life story?

### **I Love My Doctor**

In the eyes of children, there are all kinds of doctors who take care of adults and children. The overall message in this short film - doctor's help so don't be scared.

Do you like your doctor?

### **Getting My Goat**

Two young boys are playing together and calling each other names. The one boy says, "I wish you were a goat" and the boy turns into a goat. He says, "Oliver, I didn't mean it. I wish I was a goat". Now you have two goats calling each other names.

Have you ever heard the expression "You're getting my goat!" ?

### **Two of a Kind**

A young girl is dressed up in a zebra outfit complete with hat, dress and umbrella. All of the other children make fun of her and do not appreciate her style. She is very lonely but finally finds a true friend in Zorba. They are two of a kind.

Have you ever felt left out and lonely? What did you do?

**Curriculum Themes: Empathy, friendship, problem solving, choices, conquering fears, cultural awareness**

## **Questions to think about while viewing and discussing The Eva Saks Films**

1. Did this story turn out the way you thought it would? Why or why not?
2. What made the film interesting?



3. Is the main character someone you would like to have as a friend? Why or why not?
4. If you were a director or writer, how would you change the ending? What other events would you change?
5. Would you recommend this film to a friend?
6. Have you ever experienced some of the events or feeling that the main character had? Describe them.
7. Would you enjoy viewing other films by this director/ writer?

From the CBC Educators Pack - Film Discussion Questions – Becoming an educated viewer!

1. What kind of film is it? (live action, animation, documentary)
2. In which genre does it belong: comedy, farce, drama, tragedy or melodrama?
3. Who is the main character of the film? How would you describe this character?
4. What is the film's setting? (time and place)
5. What is the conflict?
6. What is the theme or main idea of the film?
7. What ideas is the filmmaker trying to communicate?
8. Does the film have a special message or purpose?
9. How do the costumes, setting, visuals, lighting, music, and sound contribute to the telling of the story?

## Writing Activities

1. Brainstorm a list of professions or jobs. Ask the children to close their eyes and visualize what they would love to be.

## Dreams

*I wish I was a....* write a good paragraph on this subject. Draw an illustration to go with your writing.



2. Retell their favorite film by Eva Saks and illustrate it.
3. Research a holiday within another culture and present it to the class.
4. With a partner, list as many words that you can think of beginning with that letter. Share with the class and see which group has discovered an unusual word that begins with that letter.
5. Write a story individually or with a partner that begins with a letter of the alphabet. Use as many words as you can think of with that letter and be sure that your story makes sense.
6. What is energy? Everyone needs a different kind of fuel for energy. Write a poem or make up a song about the types of fuel (food) that people, animals or insects need.
7. Write a poem about one of Eva Saks films.
8. Write a new ending for your favourite film.
9. Venn diagrams are visual representation of the similarities and differences between concepts. Create a venn diagram for Eva Saks Sesame Street stories.
10. Complete a Story Structure Worksheet on Eva Saks film "Colorforms".

## Math Activities

1. Ask the children what kinds of confections (pastries) they have eaten. Have them draw their favorite confection and / or graph them.
2. Graph your favourite color. Use descriptive vocabulary to describe your colour ( i.e. red – ruby red or burgundy )
3. Math at the Movies from the CBC Educator Pack:

How many students do they see in the lobby?  
How many people are working as ticket sellers, ticket collectors, custodians and concession stand workers?  
How many students are in their theater?



In film, there are 24 frames per second. How many frames were used to create the film they saw? Multiply the number of seconds in their film by 24 to find the answer. Since the students are attending a program of shorts, add all the film lengths together.

4. Graph their favourite Eva Saks film and write out problems related to the graph developed.