

# newsies disney viewing study guide answer key

**Newsies Disney viewing study guide answer key** is an essential resource for educators and students alike, especially those engaging with the film "Newsies," which is based on the true story of the Newsboys Strike of 1899 in New York City. This Disney musical has not only captivated audiences with its catchy songs and dynamic choreography but also carries significant historical and social themes. As such, a viewing study guide can enhance the understanding and appreciation of the film, providing insights and context to the story. This article will delve into the components of a comprehensive study guide, discuss key themes and characters, and provide a detailed answer key to common questions that arise during the viewing of "Newsies."

## Understanding the Film: A Brief Overview

"Newsies" is a musical film released by Disney in 1992, directed by Kenny Ortega. The story follows a group of newsboys who take a stand against the powerful newspaper publishers, highlighting themes of justice, friendship, and the fight for workers' rights. The film features a young Christian Bale as Jack Kelly, the charismatic leader of the newsboys, and is filled with memorable songs such as "Seize the Day" and "Carrying the Banner."

## Creating a Viewing Study Guide

A well-structured viewing study guide for "Newsies" should include several key components:

### 1. Pre-Watching Activities

Before diving into the film, it can be beneficial to engage students with pre-watching activities. These may include:

- Researching Historical Context: Encourage students to learn about the Newsboys Strike of 1899, the working conditions of child laborers, and the role of newspapers in society during that era.
- Character Previews: Provide brief bios of major characters, including Jack Kelly, Crutchie, and David, so students can understand their motivations and relationships.
- Discussion Questions: Pose questions related to themes of justice and activism that students should consider while watching the film.

### 2. While Watching Activities

As students watch the film, they should be prompted to take notes on key scenes, dialogue, and musical numbers. Suggested activities include:

- Scene Summaries: Have students summarize each major scene to reinforce comprehension.
- Character Analysis: Ask students to note changes in character dynamics and development throughout the film.
- Theme Identification: Encourage students to identify and discuss recurring themes, such as solidarity, sacrifice, and the fight against injustice.

### 3. Post-Watching Activities

After viewing the film, students can engage in various activities to deepen their understanding:

- Group Discussions: Facilitate small group discussions about the film's themes, characters, and historical context.
- Creative Projects: Encourage students to create posters, songs, or skits reflecting the film's messages.
- Reflection Essays: Assign a reflective essay where students can express their thoughts on how the film relates to contemporary issues.

## Answer Key for Viewing Study Guide Questions

The following is a comprehensive answer key for common questions that may be included in a "Newsies" viewing study guide.

### 1. Character Questions

1. What motivates Jack Kelly to lead the newsboys?
  - Jack is motivated by a desire for freedom and a better life. He wants to escape the harsh realities of child labor and believes in standing up for the rights of his fellow newsboys.
2. How does Crutchie's character contribute to the story?
  - Crutchie represents the vulnerability of the newsboys and highlights the importance of loyalty and friendship. His struggles evoke empathy and serve as a catalyst for the other newsboys' activism.
3. What role does David play in the story?
  - David acts as a voice of reason and strategic planner. He helps organize the strike and rallies the newsboys to fight for their rights, showcasing the importance of leadership and community.

### 2. Theme Questions

1. What are the main themes presented in "Newsies"?
  - Key themes include:
    - Solidarity: The newsboys unite against unfair treatment.
    - Justice: The struggle against exploitation and the fight for fair wages.
    - Courage: The bravery demonstrated by the newsboys in standing up to powerful figures.

2. How does the film portray the idea of activism?

- "Newsies" illustrates that activism can take many forms, from peaceful protests to organized strikes. The newsboys' determination to fight for their rights serves as a powerful message about the impact of collective action.

### 3. Historical Context Questions

1. What historical event inspired the film?

- The film is inspired by the Newsboys Strike of 1899, where child laborers protested against unfair business practices by newspaper publishers.

2. How does the film reflect the social issues of its time?

- The film addresses issues such as child labor, workers' rights, and economic inequality, highlighting the struggles faced by marginalized groups in society.

## Conclusion

In summary, the **Newsies Disney viewing study guide answer key** serves as an invaluable tool for educators and students exploring the themes and historical context of this iconic film. By engaging with the material before, during, and after viewing, students can gain a deeper understanding of the story's significance and its relevance to contemporary social issues. Through thoughtful discussion and creative projects, the lessons of "Newsies" can inspire a new generation to stand up for justice and advocate for change in their communities. Whether used in a classroom setting or for individual study, a structured viewing guide enhances the experience of this beloved Disney musical.

## Frequently Asked Questions

### What is the primary theme of Disney's 'Newsies'?

The primary theme of 'Newsies' is the fight for social justice and workers' rights, highlighting the power of youth activism.

### Who are the main characters in Disney's 'Newsies'?

The main characters include Jack Kelly, Crutchie, Davey, and Katherine Plumber, each representing different aspects of the newsboy strike.

### What historical event does 'Newsies' depict?

'Newsies' depicts the Newsboys' Strike of 1899 in New York City, where young newsboys protested against unfair pricing set by publishers.

## **How does the character Jack Kelly evolve throughout the story?**

Jack Kelly evolves from a carefree dreamer to a determined leader who inspires his peers to stand up for their rights and fight for justice.

## **What role does Katherine Plumber play in the story?**

Katherine Plumber is an aspiring journalist who supports the newsboys' cause and helps to raise awareness about their struggles through her writing.

## **What is the significance of the song 'Seize the Day' in the musical?**

'Seize the Day' is a pivotal song that encourages the newsboys to take action and unite against their oppressors, symbolizing hope and determination.

## **What challenges do the newsboys face in their fight for fair treatment?**

The newsboys face challenges such as poverty, lack of legal protections, and opposition from powerful newspaper tycoons, but they remain resilient.

## **How does the setting of New York City influence the story?**

The setting of New York City in the late 1800s provides a backdrop of industrialization and economic disparity, highlighting the struggles of working-class youth.

## **What lessons can viewers learn from 'Newsies'?**

Viewers can learn about the importance of solidarity, the impact of collective action, and the value of standing up for one's rights and beliefs.

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