



13. NEIGHBOURS

(8 min. 10 sec.)

DESCRIPTION

The story is a simple parable about two neighbours. Their friendly relationship turns to hatred, inspired by possessiveness toward a single pretty flower which springs up on the border between their properties. Argument escalates to violence, and in the end all is lost. *NEIGHBOURS* is a classic film with an innovative technique. Made in 1952 by world-renowned animator Norman McLaren, it won an Academy Award and continues to be acclaimed internationally for its profound message and its artistic qualities. All done without words, except for a concluding admonition in a dozen languages, "Love Your Neighbour".

VIEWING

Introduce the video by asking for the meaning of the word *neighbours*. After the first viewing, brainstorm for the message of the film *NEIGHBOURS*. Ask students to contribute words and phrases to a list you will build up on the blackboard. Then ask to have each item used in a complete statement. Write these on the board in numbered sequence. Each student will then choose the statement which she or he considers most appropriate. Discuss and debate the choices.

ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES

- Write paragraphs elaborating on the one-sentence statements of meaning. Write another one explaining your reasons.
- Retell the story either orally or in writing, in groups or as a class. Use descriptive words to express the feelings and mood.
- Create dialogue for the video. Dramatize with four students playing parts. Add a narrator. Rewrite the ending to resolve the dispute in a civilized way. Dramatize the new scenario. When developing dialogue, try to engage all students in a collective effort.
- Imagine the film being made today. Discuss differences that would be almost certain in a modern version. The style of movement in *NEIGHBOURS* is called *pixillation*. What kind of special effects would be used now? Would the portrayal of the wives be different?



DISCUSS IT

Conflict



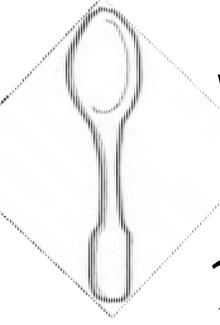
1. What kinds of conflict are there?
 2. Do women fight more than men? Why? Why not?
 3. Do you think duels and fights are a good way to solve problems?
 4. Have you ever had a conflict with your neighbor? How did it resolve?
 5. Do religions say that conflict is okay in certain circumstances?
 6. Is there ever a good issue to fight over and to have conflict?
 7. How have things changed with fighting/conflict since your grandfather's time?
 8. Do sports like boxing, MMA, martial arts help or promote conflict and fights?
 9. Have you ever prevented a conflict among groups or persons?
 10. Do you think mankind is capable of "love thy neighbor"?
-

DISCUSS IT

Conflict



1. Why do people fight? What sort of things do people fight about?
2. What are some of the conflicts going around in the world today?
3. Have you ever had any conflict in your family? What happened?
4. Will we ever stop conflicts in the world?
5. What's the best way for couples to resolve a conflict?
6. Do third-parties or councillors helpful in resolving conflicts?
7. Would you challenge someone to fight or duel if they hurt your honor?
8. Do religions say that conflict is okay in certain circumstances?
9. How can we stop kids from getting into conflicts?
10. What in your opinion has been the world's greatest conflict ever?



My Good Neighbour Recipe

Ingredients

Blank area for listing ingredients.

Method

Blank area for describing the method, featuring a small illustration of two people standing next to a large wooden crate.



Neighbours from Hell!



1) Brainstorm – What makes a really bad neighbour?

2) Complaining about a neighbour (politely!)- Useful language:

I live next door and I've noticed____(problem)_____

I'm sorry to disturb you, but_____(problem)_____

I don't mean to bother you, but____(problem)_____

then suggest what they can do to make it better!

Perhaps you could ____ (idea)_____

I would appreciate it if you could ____ (idea)_____

I would be really grateful if you could ____ (idea)_____

Is that alright?

3) Dialogue. John complains to his neighbour Jenny about her loud music...

Jenny: Hello. What can I do for you?

John: Hello, ***I live next door and I've noticed*** you play a lot of loud music at night and some nights I can't sleep well.

Jenny: Oh, I'm sorry you feel that way.

John: ***I would appreciate if it you could*** not play loud music after 11pm. ***Is that alright?***

Jenny: Sure, I'm sorry to have troubled you with this.

John: Don't worry about it. Thanks a lot.

Jenny: No problem, Bye!

John: Goodbye!

4) Use the dialogue to complain to your partner about something!

Suggest what they can do to make it better! Remember to use the **useful language!**

Your neighbor who lives immediately beside you keeps leaving his trash outside the door, and you can't stand it anymore. You are tired of smelling it every time you open up your door.

Your neighbor is a piano teacher who starts lessons at 8am on Saturday morning. You like to sleep in on Saturday morning, but you can't because it is too loud.

You saw your neighbor's mischievous son damaging other people's property. Tell your neighbors what their child was doing.

You are the neighborhood gossiper. You just found out that someone got fired from his/her job. Go tell another neighbor what happened.

You saw a strange looking man walking around the neighborhood. Go tell the security guard about him and what you think he was doing.

Your neighbor who lives directly above you often has parties late at night, but you want him to stop. Confront your neighbor.

The local gossiper was spreading rumors about you. The gossip said that you were having an affair while your spouse was on a business trip. Get this person to stop spreading the rumor before your spouse hears about it.

You are running for a local government position. You need your neighbors to vote for you. What will you tell them to get their vote?

Your mother lives in the same building as you and she comes over to your house every day and tells your wife what to do. Your wife has asked you to talk to your mother and tell her not to come over so often.

You just bought a new house, but the person you bought it from wasn't the real owner. You were just cheated out of a lot of money. Now the real owner has come home from a long vacation and is wondering why you are living in his house.

Your neighbor said he'd pay half the cost of a new fence. Now he won't. Talk to him.

Please visit us!

The largest and most complete lesson library on the web.

ELT



Everything in English language teaching



FIND US ON

Teachers Pay Teachers