

## ACORN

It's Christmas time and Mrs. Wilson is called to the principal's office concerning her son Greg.

**Before watching:** Read through the **glossary** to familiarize yourself with the expressions

acorn	<i>ekollon</i>
conscientious	<i>samvetsgrann</i>
incident	<i>händelse</i>
suit me down to the ground	<i>skulle passa mig utmärkt</i>
annual	<i>årlig</i>
multi-denominational	<i>multi-konfessionell, öppen för flera trosbekännelser</i>
nativity play	<i>julspel</i>
pageant	<i>parad, festtåg</i>
to be cast	<i>att bli rollsatt</i>
shepherd	<i>herde</i>
wee	<i>liten</i>
robes	<i>skrud, klädnad</i>
rehearsal	<i>repetition</i>
to stick my oar in	<i>att lägga näsan i blöt</i>
dated	<i>gamla</i>
fee	<i>avgift</i>
to claim	<i>att hävda</i>
indiscretion	<i>obetänksamhet</i>
quirk	<i>nyck</i>
stifling	<i>kvävande</i>
environment	<i>miljö</i>
superintendent	<i>inspektör</i>
wonder	<i>mirakel</i>
to perform	<i>att utföra</i>
liberty	<i>frihet</i>
parish	<i>församling</i>
at the expense of	<i>på bekostnad av</i>
insult	<i>förolämpning</i>
pencil pusher	<i>kontorsslav</i>
cop yourself on	<i>ta dig samman</i>
brat	<i>snorunge</i>
walk all over you	<i>köra över</i>
dote	<i>gullunge</i>



**While watching:** Pause the movie at **4:18** and discuss together in the group:

1. What do you think it is that principal Finan wants to tell Mrs. Wilson?
2. Give examples of reasons why parents could be called to the principal's office.
3. What do you think Mrs. Wilson could be expecting to hear?
4. What do you think will happen?

**After watching:** Read through the questions below and answer them.

A. Answer these questions for yourself:

1. What time of the year is the movie taking place? How can you tell?
2. Why do you think Mrs. Wilson is avoiding to hear what the principal wants to tell her about Greg? Describe how she is trying to avoid hearing what the principal has to say.

B. Answer these questions in pairs:

1. What is the Nativity play? What is it about? Have you ever watched one? In which countries do you think it is usually played?
2. What is it that Greg has done? How has the school reacted to that? What do you think your reaction would be if the same thing happened with someone at your school?
3. What happens in the car? Why do you think Greg reacts the way he does to it?

C. Answer these questions together in the whole group:

1. This movie is called "Acorn". Why do you think it got that title? What do you think the name refers to?
2. What do you think is the message of the movie? What do you think the film makers want us to feel after having watched it and why do you think so?

**What to do next...**

Choose one or more out of the following exercises to work with.

- Imagine you were one of Greg's classmates. How would you react to what happened? What would you do? Write a story, using words and phrases from the glossary above, describing what happened at school on the day that the movie takes place. Pretend you are one of Greg's classmates and write out of that person's perspective.



- What happens next? The movie ends when Greg and his mom are in the car, going home. What happens after this? What does Greg and his mom do? What happens when they get home and meet Greg's father? Work in smaller groups and come up with a continuation on the story, then reenact that story in front of the whole group.
- Work in a smaller group and see if you can list all of the miracles that Greg performed in the movie and compare them to miracles performed by Jesus Christ. How many similarities can you find between Greg and Jesus Christ? Make a list and explain what makes them similar.
- Try to imagine how the priests in the parish react when principal Finan tells them about Greg. Make a comic strip describing the scene where they find out. How do they find out? By phone or in person? How does principal Finan describe what has happened? How do the priests react to it?

### Deeper discussions

"Acorn" takes place in Ireland. What do you know about Ireland? Find out more about...

- The religious conflict between Northern Ireland and Ireland. What is it about? For how long has it existed? What has happened in it? Are there any specific events in the conflict that have drawn attention from the rest of the world? What were they? What happens in the conflict at the moment?
- The mass emigrations from Ireland in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. What caused them? Why did so many emigrate from Ireland? Where did they go? What happened where they settled down? Where are the largest Irish communities outside of Ireland today? What is specific for them?
- Is Ireland part of the E.U.? How dependent on England is Ireland? What happens with the politics in Ireland after England has left the E.U.? What does the Irish population think about the E.U.?
- Before becoming a Catholic country, Ireland was dominated by the Celtic religion and culture. What was that? What was the Celtic belief? Who were the Celts? Where did they come from? How did they live? What happened to the Celtic civilization? Are there any traces of the Celtic civilization in Ireland today? Which and how do they live on?

**Arbetsbladet är skrivet av Nina Olivier**

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