

Virtues at Christmas Family Film list

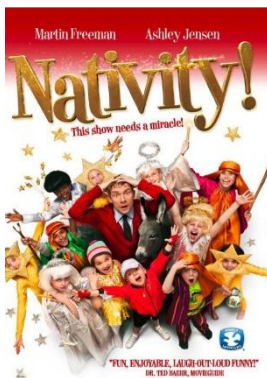


We are very excited about the release of an animated version of The Grinch (you can watch an official trailer here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=F6h0yH7EyU>) which has the potential for lots of virtue-related conversations around Christmas-time. However, there are lots of great Christmas films which could lead to discussions about virtue. Here are some of our favourites:



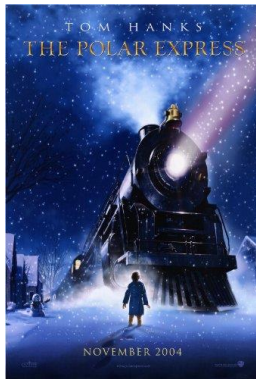
A Christmas Carol (PG)

In this animated version of the classic Dickens tale, Scrooge (a miserable and miserly old man) who hates Christmas is taught about the real meaning of the holiday through the visits of three ghosts: the ghost of Christmas past, the ghost of Christmas present and the ghost of Christmas future. Through some time-travel, the ghosts help Scrooge to reflect on his life and change his selfish ways. This could lead to discussions about the possibility of people to change and learn virtue, in addition to the virtues of gratitude, compassion and friendship.



Nativity! (U)

Mr Maddens hates Christmas but is tasked by his head teacher to try and organise his class to do a Nativity play that will finally out-do his rival's. However, with a difficult class and a childish classroom assistant, he isn't having much luck. In a desperate attempt to win, Mr Maddens lies and tells everyone that he knows a Hollywood producer who is interested in his production and the lie quickly spirals out of control. This film deals humorously with honesty in addition to confidence and perseverance.



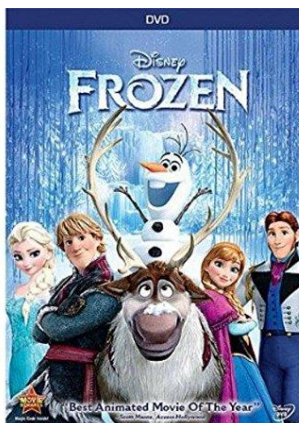
The Polar Express (U)

A young boy is struggling with belief in Santa when a mysterious train arrives on his doorstep, destined for the North Pole. On the journey to see Santa, the boy meets an interesting range of characters including a boy who is much less well off than he is. With plenty of adventures along the way, the boy realises that it is only true belief that will allow him to see Santa and experience the magic of Christmas. A heart warming tale with themes of compassion, courage and friendship.



Arthur Christmas (U)

The delivery of millions of presents around the world in one night is a high-tech operation. Unfortunately, a technical error means that one little girl is going to wake up on Christmas morning without her present. In order to avoid this disaster, Santa's youngest son Arthur, who isn't normally trusted with any important roles, sets off on a mission to deliver the present and save the day. A humorous film looking at the virtues of compassion, courage and perseverance among others.



Frozen (PG)

From a child, Elsa has struggled to control her power to freeze everything she touches. When the kingdom becomes trapped in perpetual Winter, Anna (Elsa's sister), a sledge driver called Kristoff and a comedic snowman go on a daring mission to find Elsa and save the kingdom. They show courage and perseverance on their mission but it is ultimately the power of love and compassion that break the spell. An enchanting musical that deals with issues of identity and acceptance as well as love, friendship and compassion.



It's a Wonderful Life (U)

Suitable for older children, this is a classic Christmas film for a reason. George Bailey has so many problems that he can't see a way out and decides to jump off a bridge. However, just as he is about to jump, he ends up rescuing his guardian angel, Clarence instead. Clarence shows George what life would be like in if George hadn't been there, consistently doing good deeds and making the lives of people around him better. At the end of the film, George's friends, family and neighbours express their gratitude for all his good deeds and help him to overcome his financial problems. This film is a great starting point for discussions around gratitude, hope, compassion and integrity.



Second Star to the Left (U)

Second Star to the Left is a funny and heart-warming film in which a hamster (voiced by Barbara Windsor), a rabbit (voiced by Hugh Laurie) and a guinea pig (voiced by Mark Williams) embark on a journey to deliver a Christmas present lost by Santa Claus. This film is full of festive warmth and would be great for sparking discussions around courage and kindness.