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**Discussion Questions - Bear Story (Historia de un Oso)**

YouTube Link: [**https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HG4He0HP1Tk**](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HG4He0HP1Tk)

TPH at Home Link: [**https://vimeo.com/412901511**](https://vimeo.com/412901511)

**Music/Sound**

The musical score is obviously a big part of what sets the tone in this film, but there is so much careful attention to sounds that aren’t music. How many little sounds can you hear when the bear is working on his puppets? Did you notice the sound of him taking off his glasses? Putting them down, just out of frame? What about the mechanical sounds of the diorama? How do you think they made those sounds? A musical score can set the tone, but films that account for every sound detail really transport you into a different world - something to think about if you’re making films at home.

**Images**

The 3D animation in this film is remarkable. The “real world” is one style, then the backstory is animation that looks almost like stop motion. Why do you think the filmmaker chose two different styles? How does watching the family story through the mechanical diorama affect how you receive it as a viewer?

**Allegory -** *The expression by means of symbolic fictional figures and actions of truths or generalizations about human existence.*

The film is an allegory for the filmmaker’s family story of the Pinochet regime in Chile. The bear symbolizes his grandfather, the circus symbolizes the regime. Why do you think the filmmaker chose a bear? Why the circus? Why might someone choose to tell a personal story through allegory? What changes the way you receive a story, as the viewer, when it’s told through allegory rather than literal representation?

**Suggested Activities**

1. Pick one member of your family and choose an animal to represent them. Draw them as that animal, include as many details (clothes, glasses, hats, etc.) as you can.
2. Write, or tell, a personal story through allegory, it can be any story. Of course, we’re all doing our part to socially distance right now, is there an allegory for that?
3. BONUS: Show us your story! Make a video. You can simply read your story on camera; or draw it out and take video of the drawings while narrating; or act it out!
4. Read an interview with the filmmaker about his process and how things changed when the film won an Oscar. [**https://www.americasquarterly.org/content/chiles-oscar-winning-director-gabriel-osorio-confronts-pinochet-era-film**](https://www.americasquarterly.org/content/chiles-oscar-winning-director-gabriel-osorio-confronts-pinochet-era-film)

Remember, there are no right or wrong answers. If you write, draw, or record something, send it to us at teacher@thepicturehouse.org, be sure to include Bear Story in the subject, or post online and use #TPHatHome - we want to hear from you!