



The LearningWorks

## Media Policy 2014

- A) When movies, scenes from movies, TV programs or other media are shown at TLW events, both that media and the activities will support The LearningWorks core educational values.
- B) TLW will show media falling into two categories:
  - 1) The media has special educational value, or it teaches a lesson especially applicable to students with whom we hope to work at TLW. These will be considered “**Bumpers.**”
  - 2) The media has some tangible cultural value to us, is intelligent, compelling, thought-provoking or engaging even if it lacks the educational value of “Bumpers.” These will be considered “**Gliders.**”
- C) Media which would otherwise Bump or Glide, but which contain overt violence, sex or other age-inappropriate material will not be shown.
- D) Students and parents are encouraged to read “The LearningWorks Media Values,” (pages 2 and 3) for further clarification, as well as the attached sample list of movies (page 4). TLW welcomes input and discussion from students and parents.
- E) The LearningWorks will revisit this policy and make changes and/or amendments as we see fit from time to time.

# T H E L E A R N I N G W O R K S

## M E D I A V A L U E S

LearningWorks programs work with intellectually gifted children in Israel in 2014. Many of our kids have 2 or 3 television or computer screens in their home - not to mention (as of this writing) cell phones and similar devices which can be used anywhere. Our children watch movies, television and other media very often. . . and without supervision.

We consume media just as we consume what we eat. It becomes part of us.

And just as what we eat becomes part of us, what we watch, listen to, and read becomes part of us. To carry the nutrition metaphor a step further: Some food is wholesome and nutritious. It nourishes the parts of us that are hungry. And some is junk. We may think it feels good to eat it right now, but in the long run we'll pay for it one way or another. And the exact same is true with media.

Insofar as we have a say, we believe we can develop in our students a sense that some movies are worth their time and energy more than others - and we can encourage them to choose carefully between them. We intend to do so through our own choices of what we watch, and what we don't watch.

Additionally, when we show media as a TLW activity, our behavior will be in line with our overall LearningWorks educational values. For example, popcorn fights teach that it's okay to make a relatively benign mess once in a while. . . mostly because they *also* teach that we are responsible for cleaning up our own mess. Getting five kids to share three spaces on a couch, or to share their snacks. . . getting someone who hasn't had a curfew for years to act respectfully when her friend calls her parents because it's 21:35. . . These lessons can be as valuable as (and often more valuable than) whatever we're watching on the screen.

Following are some examples of what we look for in media which Bumps or Glides:

[The Karate Kid](#), a Bumper, teaches the importance of determination when you are an outsider. It teaches the value of balance and has beautiful examples of someone learning how to prioritize his life according to what's really important. And although the main character is an outsider, he is *cool*, at least by the standards of 1983. He probably never read a sci-fi book in his life.

[October Sky](#) teaches the importance of **אימים וביד אב ואים** even when it causes tension; it engages us on the value of community; its main characters feel obligated to become

excellent at academic pursuits, even though their world would prefer that they play football and becoming coal miners. . . like everyone else.

Note: Neither of these Bumpers are science fiction or fantasy.

[Tron](#), a Glider, is one of the first movies to use CGI. It was one of the first looks inside a supercomputer after the main character gets sucked into the virtual world. A major achievement was showing human actors with (then) high-resolution CGI, limited by the technology of 1982. And it's a pretty good movie as well.

[The Princess Bride](#), [The Parent Trap](#), [Raiders of the Lost Ark](#), are all good examples of Gliders - as are [Star Wars](#), [E.T.](#), and [Real Genius](#). (And Star Wars may be a Bumper - but we're not explaining why; if you need that explained, you probably don't send your kids to us in the first place.)

There is a third category. We almost certainly won't show media from this category in the context of TLW. . . But there's no use pretending they don't exist.

These movies would otherwise bump or glide, but they include content we're not comfortable showing to kids aged 9-17. Not showing them at TLW isn't going to stop anyone watching them. If they're on this list, they're probably excellent movies, and many parents watch them with their children, or allow their children to watch them. But despite their value, their age-inappropriateness puts them beyond the scope of TLW. We'll call this group **Funky** (but would love suggestions on a better term). Do what you want with them.

(We've put a lot of thought and effort into this document, but very few people ever discuss it with us. So. . . if you're still reading, way to go. Please tell your child to look at one of us and say. . . "The Enemy's Gate is Down." Then we'll know to give them a really great treat.)

This leaves us with Bumpers and Gliders. There's no shortage, but they are harder to find than we'd like. So if you have suggestions, please mention them. Likewise if you think we've left anything out. As the policy says, we're going to revisit this from time to time.

B U M P E R S	G L I D E R S	F U N K Y
October Sky	The Adjustment Bureau	Enigma
The Right Stuff	Hackers	Minority Report
Stand By Me	Pirates of the Caribbean	Say Anything
The Goonies	Batman (1989)	Outbreak
Big	Batman Begins	The Dark Knight
Bridge to Terebithia	E.T. The Extraterrestrial	Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon
Contact	Empire Records	Push
Dead Poet's Society	X-Men	Source Code
Exodus	Titan A.E.	The Boat that Rocked
Les Choristes	Short Circuit	Terminator
The Power of One	Hugo	Alien
The Karate Kid	Indiana Jones	Predator
The Mighty Ducks	Star Wars	Unbreakable
Finding Neverland	Men in Black	The Matrix
The Neverending Story	Meatballs	The Usual Suspects
The Parent Trap	Trading Places (TV Version)	Tombstone
Groundhog Day	Stardust	The Saint
The Incredibles	Back to the Future	The Shawshank Redemption
Freedom Writers	I, Robot	Erin Brockovitch
Stand and Deliver	Sneakers	A Scanner Darkly
A.I. Artificial Intelligence	Sherlock Holmes	Blood Diamond
2001, A Space Odyssey	Star Trek	Glory
Dances with Wolves	A Knight's Tale	Cool Hand Luke
Field of Dreams	Cars - okay, anything Pixar - many are actually Bumpers	Cry Freedom
Lord of the Rings (but who has that kind of time?)	Bond, James Bond. Though some belong in 'Funky.'	V for Vendetta
Major League	Crocodile Dundee	The Color Purple
Holes	Fanboys	Sunshine
I Am Sam	Ghostbusters	Gran Torino
Finding Forrester	Galaxy Quest	Good Will Hunting
Regarding Henry	Harry Potter	Jerry Maguire
Remember the Titans	Jurassic Park	Highlander
School Ties	Labyrinth	Jaws
The Last Samurai	Metropolis (silent film!)	Scent of a Woman
The Sandlot	Ocean's Eleven	Supernova
War Horse	Spaceballs	Strange Days
	Shrek	The Green Mile
The West Wing		
Doctor Who	The Twilight Zone	Breaking Bad