

Pixar does it again!

What's it all about?

For the Birds, certified U, is Pixar's latest short animation detailing the struggle one large, clumsy bird experiences as he attempts to befriend a flock of bad tempered, snooty birds on a telephone wire. Only three minutes long but packed with laughs and top quality animation, this is a mini-masterpiece that also offers a moving reminder about how we should treat those who are different. It is perfect for teachers who wish to tackle the sensitive subject of bullying in an engaging manner.

Brilliant bits

As you'd expect from Pixar, whose previous films include *WALL-E*, *Monsters Inc.* and *Toy Story*, the computer animation is visually engaging and stunning. Little details leap off the screen with crystal clear focus. In particular, the way the animators create a floating flying feather is simply amazing. The large, goofy bird will be a popular favourite with children too, due to his hilarious antics and facial expressions. It's wonderful to see the nasty flock of birds receive their comeuppance too!

The stars of the show

Being a film without any dialogue, the star has to be Ralph Eggleston who not only wrote the screenplay but also directed the film. What a talented man!

Any weak bits?

Definitely not! The humour is for all the family, which you would expect from a Pixar movie. Mums, dads, grannies and grandchildren will all find themselves in hysterics.

Especially impressive is the ability to tell a story and communicate emotion, without a single line of dialogue. Even though most of the communication is a series of squeaks and squawks, the audience are left in no doubt about what is being 'said' on the screen.

Would you recommend this film?

Absolutely! 'For the Birds' is a treat for all the family and can be watched time and time again! A classic!

This review is based on the short film 'For the Birds' which can be found here:
<http://www.literacyshed.com/the-thinking-shed.html>