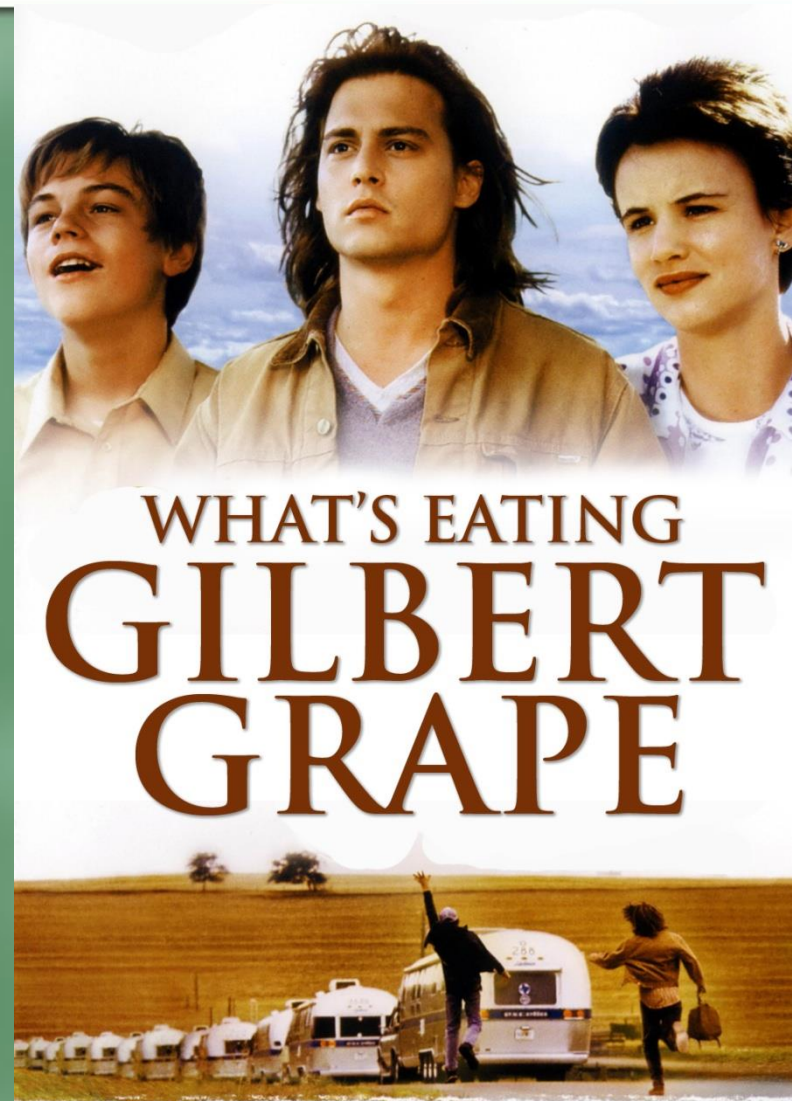


## S4 PSE

**Citizenship**  
Conformity, Disability  
and our society



# Learning Experiences & Outcomes

As I explore the rights to which I and others are entitled, I am able to exercise these rights appropriately and accept the responsibilities that go with them. I show respect for the rights of others.

*HWB 0-09a / HWB 1-09a /*

I recognise that each individual has a unique blend of abilities and needs. I contribute to making my school community one which values individuals equally and is a welcoming place for all.

*HWB 0-10a / HWB 1-10a / HWB 2-10a / HWB 3-10a /*  
*HWB 4-10a*

Through contributing my views, time and talents, I play a part in bringing about positive change in my school and wider community.

*HWB 0-13a / HWB 1-13a / HWB 2-13a / HWB 3-13a / HWB 4-13a*

I am learning to assess and manage risk, to protect myself and others, and to reduce the potential for harm when possible.

*HWB 0-16a / HWB 1-16a / HWB 2-16a / HWB 3-16a / HWB 4-16a*

I understand and can demonstrate the qualities and skills required to sustain different types of relationships.

*HWB 3-44b / HWB 4-44b*

# Learning Experiences & Outcomes

I am aware of the need to respect personal space and boundaries and can recognise and respond appropriately to verbal and non-verbal communication.

*HWB 0-45b / HWB 1-45b / HWB 2-45b / HWB 3-45b / HWB 4-45b*

I can show my understanding of what I listen to or watch by commenting, with evidence, on the content and form of short and extended texts.

*LIT 3-07a*

I understand that people can feel alone and can be misunderstood and left out by others. I am learning how to give appropriate support.

*HWB 0-08a / HWB 1-08a / HWB 2-08a / HWB 3-08a / HWB 4-08a*

Using what I know about the features of different types of texts, I can find, select, sort, summarise, link and use information from different sources.

*LIT 3-14a / LIT 4-14a*

I know that we all experience a variety of thoughts and emotions that affect how we feel and behave and I am learning ways of managing them.

*HWB 0-02a / HWB 1-02a / HWB 2-02a / HWB 3-02a / HWB 4-02a*

I am learning skills and strategies which will support me in challenging times, particularly in relation to change and loss.

*HWB 0-07a / HWB 1-07a / HWB 2-07a / HWB 3-07a / HWB 4-07a*



# Learning Intentions – Lesson 1

Copy these into your jotter/ onto lined paper

- To be introduced to the film 'What's eating Gilbert Grape'
- To consider the characters, setting and themes in the first part of the film
- To consider the portrayal of family and disability in the first part of the film



# INTRODUCTION



Gilbert Grape lives in Endora with his family. Life is challenging for them, especially since their Father committed suicide some years earlier. As a result, Gilbert's Mother Bonnie has not been able to cope with life and has become morbidly obese and trapped in her own home.

This has placed a great deal of responsibility on Gilbert and his siblings to run the family, take care of one another and in particular their autistic brother Arnie who is about to turn eighteen.

Gilbert has a strong sense of responsibility *'My Dad built the house and it's my job to keep up the repairs'*. He works at Lamson's Grocery store which is facing competition from the big, new supermarket just opened, Foodland.

The film is set over seven days, leading up to Arnie's eighteenth birthday party. This year there is a change to life in Endora as one of the passing campervans breaks down bringing Becky and her Grandmother to town. As Gilbert develops a friendship with Becky, his life is transformed from the inside out.

# Lesson 1



We are now going to watch the first 30 minutes of the film.

While you watch consider the following:

- How the Gilbert family are portrayed
- What the family's life is like
- What the town of Endora is like
- The challenges Gilbert's family face

## Learning Intentions – Lesson 2

Copy these into your jotter/ onto lined paper

- To think about my response to the first part of the film
- To consider the way the Grape family are portrayed
- To consider the relationships in the film







# Lesson 2

- *Answer the following questions in your jotter/ on paper:*
1. How does Gilbert introduce his family? What does this say about his relationship with each of them?
  2. Explain Arnie's excitement about seeing the campervans. What does this tell us about the town of Endora?
  3. What sort of person is Gilbert? How do you think his family has affected him?
  4. Describe the family house.
  5. After viewing the start of the film how would you describe Gilbert's life?
  6. What is Becky like? How does she react to Arnie & Gilbert? What does this say about her?



## **Learning Intentions – Lessons 3 & 4**

Copy these into your jotter/ onto lined paper

- Watch the second part of the film
- To consider the portrayal of Autism in the film
- To consider the role of being a carer
- To consider how society treats people who have learning difficulties





# Lesson 3 & 4

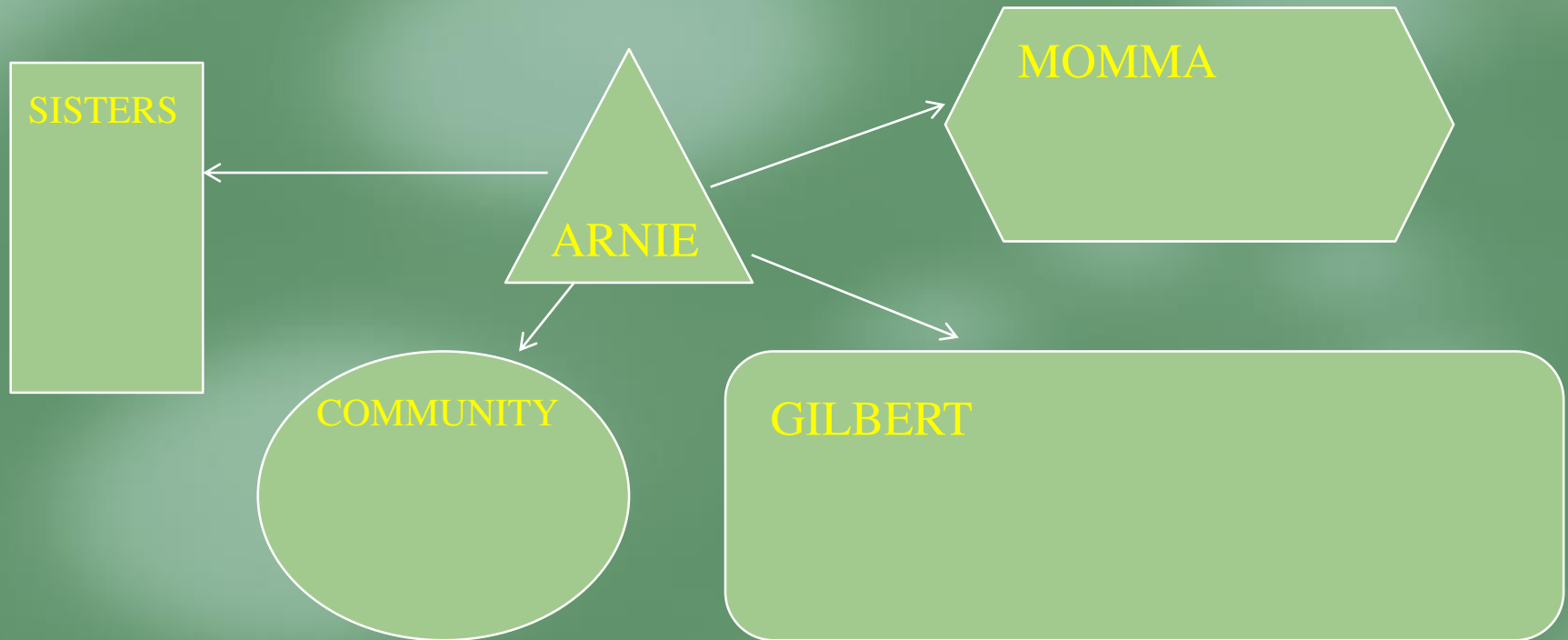
Watch the next 30 minutes of the movie and answer the following questions:

1. What sort of person is Arnie? How does the town treat him? Explain your answer.
2. When Gilbert forgot about Arnie in the bath – how did he react when he found him still there?
3. Why does Arnie try to climb the tower?
4. How does the community react to Arnie climbing the water tower for the second time?
5. How does the family respond to Arnie not coming home?

# Being Different

Arnie suffers from a form of Autism and this is why he needs more care than the average teenager.

Copy down the diagram and describe the relationship/s he has with the others in the relevant boxes:





# AUTISM



- Arnie has autism. Autism is a lifelong developmental disability that affects how a person communicates with, and relates to, other people. It also affects how they make sense of the world around them.
- It is a spectrum condition, which means that, the condition will affect different people in different ways. Some people are able to live relatively independent lives but others may have accompanying learning disabilities and need a lifetime of specialist support. People with autism may also experience sensitivity to sounds, touch, tastes, smells, light or colours.
- Communication is difficult for people with autism as they can misunderstand social cues. They can find it difficult to make and keep friends and the world about them can seem confusing.

# BEING A CARER



A recurrent theme throughout the film is the stress of coping with Arnie. It has clearly worn Gilbert's patience out at times.

Carers often need support and time out from caring.

Looking after someone with a learning need can be overwhelming and a 24 hour job for many carers.

Carers also need to remember to look after their own health and needs.

People are very often afraid of those who are different from themselves and react with fear and judgement. This can sometimes result in bullying and ridicule from others.

Being a carer also brings with it the rewards of love and intimacy with a special individual.

# Living with Arnie



- Working in groups of 2 or 3 copy and complete the boxes below:

**What is difficult about living with Arnie?**

**What jobs does Gilbert have to take on as a carer?**

**What is good about living with Arnie?**

**What support do you think the family should have?**



# Task



- Now watch the remainder of the film



# Learning Intentions – Lesson 5

Copy these into your jotter/ onto lined paper

- To consider my response to the film
- To reflect on my own views of people different from myself
- To consider the pressure put on people to conform to society's norms





# Lesson 5

■ Having now watched the entire film answer the following questions:

1. What was the significance of Gilbert bringing Becky to meet his Mother?
2. What was the significance of Arnie turning 18?
3. Why do you think Momma climbed the stairs to her bedroom for the first time in a long time instead of sleeping on the sofa?
4. When momma dies how do the children grieve?
5. Explain the importance of burning down the house.
6. A year after Momma's death, what has become of the family members? Has life improved? What do you think the future holds for them?



# Being different in our society



In a society obsessed with perfection and slimness, one of the worst sins seems to be being overweight or fat. The more driven the push for slimness becomes, the worse the obesity epidemic seems to be getting.

There are many health consequences of being overweight and obese. Beyond the obvious medical issues those who are overweight can suffer from enormous stigma and social rejection and can suffer from depression like Momma in the movie. This can then lead to a vicious circle of **depression → comfort eating → obesity → depression.....**

**Most cases of obesity are caused by eating too much and moving too little. If you consume high amounts of energy from your diet but do not burn off the energy through exercise and physical activity, the surplus energy is turned into fat.**

Science has come to understand body weight issues more clearly. Some people may be predisposed to have higher body fat contents, whereas others may overeat and rarely increase weight. Lifestyle changes have also greatly contributed to the amount of overweight people – less exercise & more high fat, convenience food is a lethal combination.



# Body Image.....

## J.K. Rowling



■ “Fat’ is usually the first insult a girl throws at another girl when she wants to hurt her.

I mean, is ‘fat’ really the worst thing a human being can be? Is ‘fat’ worse than ‘vindictive’, ‘jealous’, ‘shallow’, ‘vain’, ‘boring’ or ‘cruel’? Not to me; but then, you might retort, what do I know about the pressure to be skinny? I’m not in the business of being judged on my looks, what with being a writer and earning my living by using my brain...

I went to the British Book Awards that evening. After the award ceremony I bumped into a woman I hadn’t seen for nearly three years. The first thing she said to me? ‘You’ve lost a lot of weight since the last time I saw you!’

‘Well,’ I said, slightly nonplussed, ‘the last time you saw me I’d just had a baby.’

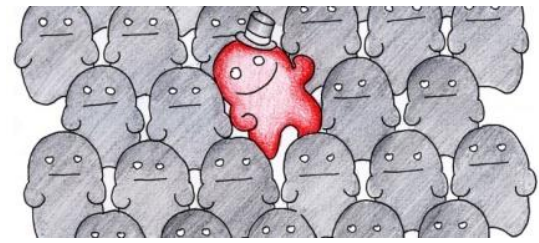
What I felt like saying was, ‘I’ve produced my third child and my sixth novel since I last saw you. Aren’t either of those things more important, more interesting, than my size?’ But no – my waist looked smaller! Forget the kid and the book: finally, something to celebrate!

I’ve got two daughters who will have to make their way in this skinny-obsessed world, and it worries me, because I don’t want them to be empty-headed, self-obsessed, emaciated clones; I’d rather they were independent, interesting, idealistic, kind, opinionated, original, funny – a thousand things, before ‘thin’. Let my girls be Hermiones, rather than Pansy Parkinsons.”

**On your piece of paper answer the following –**

- **What do you think of this quote?**
- **Do you agree or disagree? Explain your answer**

# Being different.....



In groups of 2 or 3 consider the following questions and record your answers in writing:

1. Why do you think we find those that are different from what society considers the 'norm' hard to accept as just another person?
2. How do you think Momma felt about herself?
3. What have we learned about 'being different' from watching this film?



# Extension Work – Reading the film



- Films use imagery to communicate ideas to the audience for example: **Gilbert's Apron** which is very old fashioned lets the audience know that the shop he works in is stuck in the past and has not moved with the times – this contrasted with the modern foodland store can then be expanded to reflect the whole of the town of Endora
- Choose 4 or 5 of the following images and write what you think the film maker was trying to communicate to the audience by using these images:

\*Sky

\*Foodland

\*Burger Barn

\*Fire

\*The Water Tower

\*New Highway

\*Sunset

\*Grape House Basement

\*The Lake

\*Lamson's Grocery

\*Becky's campervan

\*Gilbert's Truck

\*The Ramp Cafe

# Extension Work - Transitions & Turning Points



- Based on the film create a visual representation of Gilbert's steps in the journey of the film – for each step note a significant event which happens. Then complete the sentences in the shapes. Copy and complete the template on this slide.

At the start of the film Gilbert is...

What the future holds for Gilbert is...