

My Neighbor Totoro

Just For Fun Rating (0-5): □□□□ Age Range: 5/6+ years

Diversity Themes: Race/Ethnicity; Family Diversity; Socioeconomic Status

Potential Questions/Comments/Activities:

1. How is your life the same as Satsuki and Mei? How is it different?
2. What did you think of the lunch that they ate?
 - a. If you have never been to a Japanese restaurant with your kids - take them! If you have, have the whole family try something new.
3. If your child has a sibling, ask about the relationship between the two girls. Is it the same as your sibling relationships? For the only child, ask him or her about other sibling relationships that are portrayed on TV, in books & movies, etc.
4. Do an online 'tour' of Japan - not just Tokyo and Kyoto, but explore less traveled areas as well.
5. _____
6. _____
7. _____

Continuing the Conversation

Sign your child up to become a penpal with another child from Japan. As the relationship develops, see if there is a way for them to meet. As you watch the movie, analyze the life of people in Japan - style of dress, the houses, the food. Re-create different aspects of their everyday lives - as much as possible - in your own home for a day or week. If your child is interested in film, discuss the differences between American cinema & Japanese cinema. What are the differences in style? How does that differ in live-action as opposed to animated. What did your child think about the magical aspects of this movie? What about that is uniquely Japanese? Look up more information about this aspect of Japanese culture.

