

**Film Title and Release Date:** *New Boy* (2007)

**Length of Film:** 12 minutes

**Film Genre:** Short Film/Drama

**Reviewers Name and Grade:** Nicolas A., 8th grade

**Date Reviewed:** March 7, 2021

The film is set to the year of the release date (2007) and Joseph, a 9 year old boy from Africa is a new boy at school after his father, a schoolteacher, was shot and killed for teaching young boys in Africa. Immediately Joseph moves to what we are assuming Ireland; this is where the film begins. In the beginning of the film the boy behind him Christian bullies Joseph calling him "Live Aid" and threatening to put a booger on his face. When he put a booger on him Joseph pulled his finger with the booger which caused Christians finger to be in deep pain. During recess Christian and his friend tried to start a fight with Joseph and the teacher pulled them in the hallway after recess ended. Another classmate named Hazel tried to explain to the teacher what happened and the teacher told to go back to the classroom which caused her to swear which made the three boys laugh. It is assumed that they are friends now and the film ends.

Questions about the Film:

*How did you find the film on Kanopy (by title search, subject search, casual browsing, etc.)?:* I found this film on my recommended page on Kanopy. The description looked good to me so I decided to watch it.

*Did the plot keep you interested?:* The plot was interesting because it kept flashing back to when Joseph was in Africa

*Was the pace of the film too fast, too slow, or just right?:* I had no problem with the film pace; I would say it's just right.

*What grade level(s) is this film appropriate for?:* I would say this film is appropriate for 6th grade and up. There were some terms that could be considered racist and a few swears were used in the film.

*Rating:*

I would give this film a rating of 5 stars. I give this rating because of the plot I loved how it compared to school in Africa and Ireland. I understood the movie well and I laughed during some parts. This film actually won Best Narrative Short at the Tribeca Film Festival and Best Short Film Award from the Berlin International Film Festival. It was nominated for Best Short Film, Live Action at the Academy Awards.

**Reviewer Name and Grade: Eren G., 11<sup>th</sup> Grade**

**Date Reviewed: April 13, 2021**

Joseph is the new student at a school in Ireland, having just moved to Ireland from a country in Africa. He is mostly silent throughout the entire film, whereas he was more active and talkative before he moved. Joseph struggles to fit in with the other students. Two boys in his class named Seth Quinn and Christian Kelly give him trouble. Christian sits behind Joseph in the classroom, and gives him the nickname Live Aid. Whenever Christian says something to Joseph to mock or tease him, the teacher stops her teaching and confronts him, which always leads to Christian denying his misdeeds. Every so often, before Christian says something rude to Joseph, he has flashbacks of his previous life in Africa, where his father was a teacher, and they all had a great time together and treated each other kindly. Unfortunately, one day, Joseph's father was taken and killed for teaching, and Joseph was forced to leave Africa. Christian, before the end of class, takes his finger with mucus on it and goads Joseph into grabbing onto his finger and throwing him to the ground, getting Joseph into trouble. A girl named Hazel O'Hara repeatedly tells the teacher that Christian has been giving Joseph trouble, yet the teacher pays barely any attention. Later, when the children go out for recess, milk is thrown at Joseph before he is surrounded by a Christian and several other boys. Seth and Christian attempt to fight Joseph before the teacher intercepts them. As the three boys stand in the hallway, Christian and Seth mock the teacher by repeating her words in a sarcastic way. They laugh as Hazel O'Hara attempts to persuade the teacher that Christian and Seth are guilty. Joseph, instead of staying quiet and obedient, decides to join in on the fun, calling out a word before the teacher says it, and laughs with the former bullies. Later, Joseph and the other boys head inside the classroom, but with different expressions on their faces.

*How did you find this film on Kanopy (by title search, subject, casual browsing, etc.)?*

I was only casually browsing, and came across this film.

*Did the plot (for fictional movie) or presentation of information (for documentary) keep you interested?*

Yes, I like the interactions the characters had with each other, as well as the flashbacks of Joseph's old life in Africa.

*Was the pace of the film too fast, too slow, or just right?*

For a 10 minute film, the pacing worked out really well. Each short scene had enough for the viewer to know what's going on.

*What grade level(s) is this film appropriate for?*

I think all ages should take a look at this (although there are a few curses here and there). It holds a deep message to support inclusion of anyone and anti-bullying.

*Rating:*

I rate this book *4 stars: I enjoyed the film and found it worthwhile to watch.*

The cast of characters in this film work out really well and the message of bullying and wrongful exclusion really stands out. The change of mind the kids had at the end worked out in the end.