

Film Title: *Home Sweet Home* (2014)
Length of Film in Minutes: 10 minutes
Film Genre: Short film/animated

Reviewer Name and Grade: Lijia L., 9th Grade

Date Reviewed: May 29, 2021

We start on a desolate street with old houses that are falling apart with age. Suddenly, a newer teal house lights up and starts shuffling down the street, crossing over bridges and abandoned highways. Along the way, an older looking brown house covered with shrubs joins it. This brown house seems to need support from a wooden stick used as a cane. Together, they travel through harsh weather, sunny weather, up hills, and through forests. When the old house's cane snaps, the teal house finds another cane for it. Along the way, a small dog house joins them. This dog house is similar to a real dog and even barks like one. All three of them continue travelling through fields, more forests, around ponds, and countless other gorgeous landscapes until they arrive at a snow covered tundra with a frozen lake. The teal house accompanies a small pink caravan and skates on the frozen lake while the old house investigates an abandoned building that used to be a car warehouse. Ominous clouds roll in and stir up a storm, with the two houses caught inside. After the storm clears, they build a fire and go to sleep, with the old house shivering from the cold. When the teal house wakes up to the sun rising, the old house is still, never to move again. The teal house and the dog house continue their journey into the sunrise.

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

I found this film from casual browsing in the kid's section. It had a unique cover image which made me curious about the plot.

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

There wasn't a clear plot, and it was basically a film on a travelling house with many themes present about friendship, death, and travelling. However, I don't think the purpose of the film was to create a very clear plot, and it was more focused on the animation, landscapes, and the themes.

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

I thought the pace of the film was just right. If it had been any longer, there would likely be too many landscape scenes and it would drag on. If it was shorter, it would be difficult to fit in all the themes and beautiful animations.

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

This film is appropriate for all grade levels and all ages, although older viewers may be able to pick out the themes while younger viewers can just enjoy the beauty of the animation.

5 stars:

"Home Sweet Home" was a worthwhile watch, largely due to the beautiful landscapes and detailed animations. Although the plot was unclear, it didn't matter to me, and I still enjoyed the art and the themes. The amazing sound effects paired with the vivid animation also made me believe I was there with the houses..