



Finding Nemo

What this film is about

Finding Nemo is a Disney animated film. Set in the ocean off Australia, it begins with two clownfish, Marlin and Coral laying and fertilising their eggs in a coral reef. A predator fish, however, attacks the family, eats Coral and destroys all the eggs but one. Marlin dedicates his life to his one remaining offspring: Nemo.

Once Nemo is born, Marlin becomes suffocatingly overprotective, refusing to allow Nemo to have any independence or freedom from restriction. Eventually Nemo defies his father, leaves the safety of the coral reef and heads out into the open ocean where he is captured by a diver. Nemo ends up in a tank in a dentist's consulting room, dreaming with the other captive fish of a return to the open ocean. Meanwhile, Marlin sets out to find his son and rescue him.

The story then has two parallel strands. Marlin is trying to get to Nemo and Nemo wants to get back to Marlin. Marlin embarks on an odyssey into unfamiliar waters finding enemies can really be friends and helpers. He meets sharks who have renounced their predatory ways (almost), he is swallowed by a whale who releases him, and a pelican who shelters him in his beak. He is further helped by a devoted companion, Dory, who has little memory and who is apparently largely useless, but without whose help, Nemo cannot be rescued. He is helped by wise sea turtles (aping their teenage mutant ninja (and surfing) brothers), in a fellowship of sea creatures against the most serious predator, - human beings.

Meanwhile, the captured Nemo must undergo an initiation ceremony and receive a new name 'Sharkbait' to join his fellow captives in their vision to escape the tank and go back to the ocean. There is an urgency about this task, since a horrible little girl is due to arrive to take Nemo away as a pet. They are kept in touch with their dream through the friendly pelican, but each escape attempt goes wrong. Finally, after hearing that his father is out there looking for him, Nemo makes it out of the tank and back to the ocean via the toilet, where, although he is nearly captured in a net, he is finally reunited with his father. The rest of his friends also finally make it out of the tank and into the sea, - in sealed plastic bags....

Major themes of the film

Loss, separation, exile, capture, friendship, hope and despair, relationships, parental and filial love, co-operation, human beings as predators and abusers of the natural world.

Excerpts from the film to watch

Nemo's disobedience and capture

The shark therapy class

Marlin and Dory being swallowed by the whale

Nemo's initiation ceremony

The escape of the school of fish from the net



