

**Skill Area(s):**  
 Perspective Taking  
 Feelings/Emotions

## Creature Comforts DVD\*

**Level:** beginner, intermediate, advanced (see by each episode)

**Goal:** a visual activity to work on feeling/emotions and perspective taking

**Materials needed:** Creature Comforts DVD\* or you may be able to watch one of the episodes on your computer screen using this web site: [http://atomfilms.shockwave.com/af/content/atom\\_221](http://atomfilms.shockwave.com/af/content/atom_221)  
 There has also been a TV series created in the UK with this title and DVDs may be available.

### Activity:

**Level: intermediate, advanced** "Creature Comforts" is a 1990 animated short film about how animals feel about living in a zoo. The original film's dialogue was created by interviewing residents of a housing development. Animation was then created that attributed the answers to zoo animals. This episode runs approximately 5 minutes. It is somewhat difficult to understand the voices due to the English dialect and sound quality.

**Level: all** "Wat's Pig" combines *The Prince and the Pauper* with *The Man in the Iron Mask* to contrast the lives of identical twins separated at birth, one grown into a self-centered prince, the other raised in the forest by a particularly talented sow and what happens when a neighboring kingdom decides to declare war. This one runs about 11 minutes.

**Level: advanced** "Adam" offers a distinctly comic take on the genesis of humankind. This is a whimsical in-the-beginning tale about a little clay and a lot of imagination. The claymation Adam - a small (**and naked**) man in a small planet, "a la The Little Prince", while his creator (God) works on him. It doesn't conform to the Biblical chain of events. This one runs approximately 6 minutes.

**Level: advanced** "Not Without My Handbag," an outrageous take on the living dead and appliance warranties. Dear, deceased Auntie makes the ultimate fashion statement she won't stay in Hell without a proper handbag. The style and story line reminded me a lot of Tim Burton's *The Nightmare Before Christmas*. Due to the darker humor of the subject matter here, it may not be appropriate for younger viewers. This one runs about 11 minutes.

### Follow up suggestions:

- Discuss the episode that you presented and ask students to summarize the story.
- Have students take one of the characters perspectives and explain what emotions were expressed.
- Refer to Wallace and Gromit activity for more ideas

\*We bought this for 6.20 through eBay ~ be sure to buy one that is from the USA and not from another country as it probably won't play on USA DVD players. This may also be found on other web sites, Best Buy, video stores, etc. You might be able to check it out from the library or the video stores.