

02/09/20

thepromise.earth

THE PROMISE

Screening Toolkit





The Promise is a post-apocalyptic urban fairy tale of a young thief who tries to snatch an old woman's bag. She finds she can't have it without giving a promise in return...

When she opens the bag, the thief is surprised to find only acorns. She begins an odyssey to keep her promise to "plant them", wherever she can.

Slowly, her city is revitalised.

Nature returns. People are enchanted. Communities are renewed as nature is renewed, and people share in the restoration. Nature spreads through the city 'like a song'.



Bringing The Promise to life in your school / community.

'I HELD A FOREST IN MY ARMS AND MY HEART WAS CHANGED'

This toolkit will provide you with a framework for bringing The Promise into your school / home learning environment - whether to simply screen the film in a classroom or create a whole morning of nature connection activities & actions.

Screening The Promise is a great way to prompt conversations around many important topics in the classroom: Nature connection, Wellbeing, Community & Climate.

We believe the magic of this story presents us with the opportunity to bring nature connection to the communities that need it the most.

This screen kit includes:

- A link to the 20 minute assembly film which can be accessed on the day.
- Tips for how to make your assembly screening of The Promise more engaging.
- A classroom guide for how to prompt discussion and creativity after the screening.
- Ideas for how your school can take collective action and become part of a generation of youngsters who are promising themselves a greener future.
- Thoughts on how to continue the energy after the day.



Screening The Promise

'GREEN SPREAD THROUGH THE CITY LIKE A SONG'

The Promise film is a beautiful 5 minute animation that has the power to capture the heart and mind. To really kick start the imagination we've curated a longer montage film which will set the tone for a morning of immersing yourself in The Promise.

You can download this pack from September - the link to viewing the film itself will not be viewable till October 16th. Updated versions of this pack will be released nearer the day.

LINK: thepromise.earth/screening

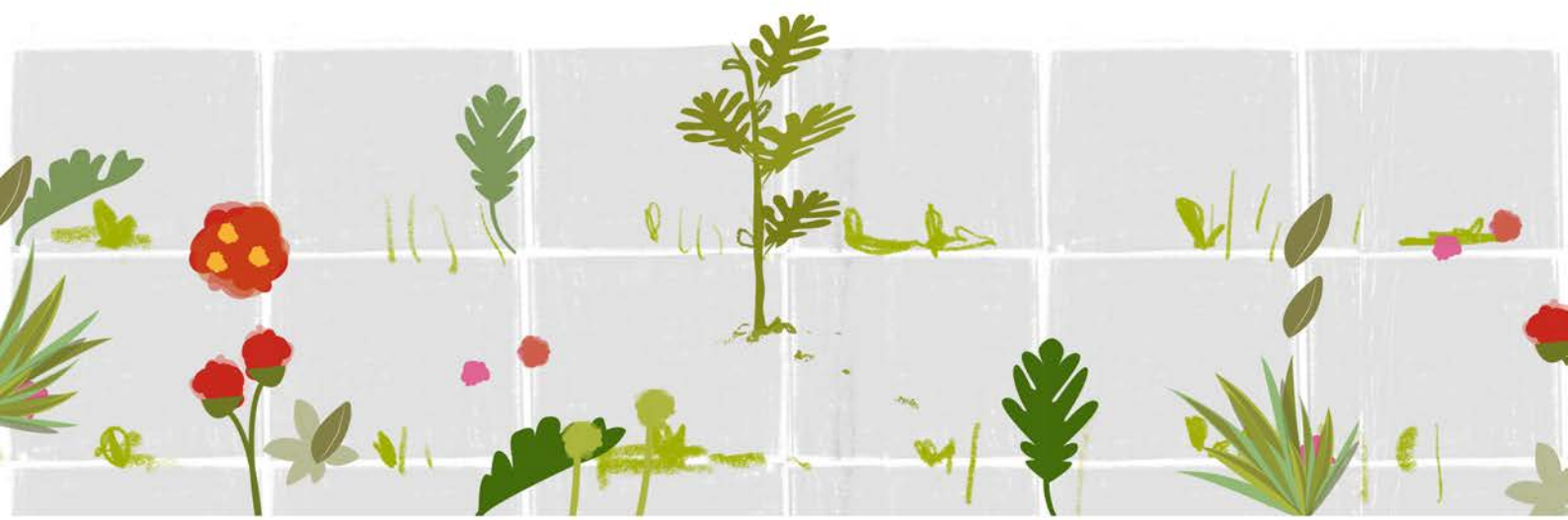
Assembly film (20 mins)

Includes:

- Introduction to The Promise by author Nicola Davies
- Reading of the book by a special guest
- Exclusive screening of The Promise animation.
- Facts on how trees are helping us fight the climate crisis

Tips on making your screening the most it can be:

- Download The Promise film posters to put up around your school in the week leading up to the screen so students get excited. (TBC)
- Encourage students to come dressed in something green.
- Every student brings a leaf from a tree on their walk to school
- Decorate your school hall with paper flowers & colourful plant-like shapes.
- Connect with a local tree planting initiative that you can promote on the day.



Understanding The Promise

'THEY TOUCHED THE LEAVES IN WONDER AND THEY SMILED'

This two part section is made in mind of being approached in smaller groups or classes.

SESSION LENGTH: 1 HOUR

The Promise is a wonderful way to ignite conversation about how we might create better nature connection in our day to day lives. These activities are a guide for prompting discussion between students - through words or arts & craft.

Objective: Work your way through these discussion points to unravel deeper layers of The Promise. Earlier questions are more suited to younger ages.

DISCUSSION POINTS (20 mins)

- Write 10 words the film made you feel
- What did you enjoy about the story the most?
- Why do you think the trees growing made people happier?
- Get into small groups and each talk about your favourite time outside in nature
- If you had a bag of acorns - where would you plant them?
- What have you learnt about how trees impact air pollution?
- Where are the trees and green spaces near your home or school?
- How could you connect more with nature in your daily life?
- What do you think the world would be like without nature?
- What steps do you think we can take to reduce our impact on the environment?



Deepening the understanding

'MY HEAD FULL OF LEAFY VISIONS'

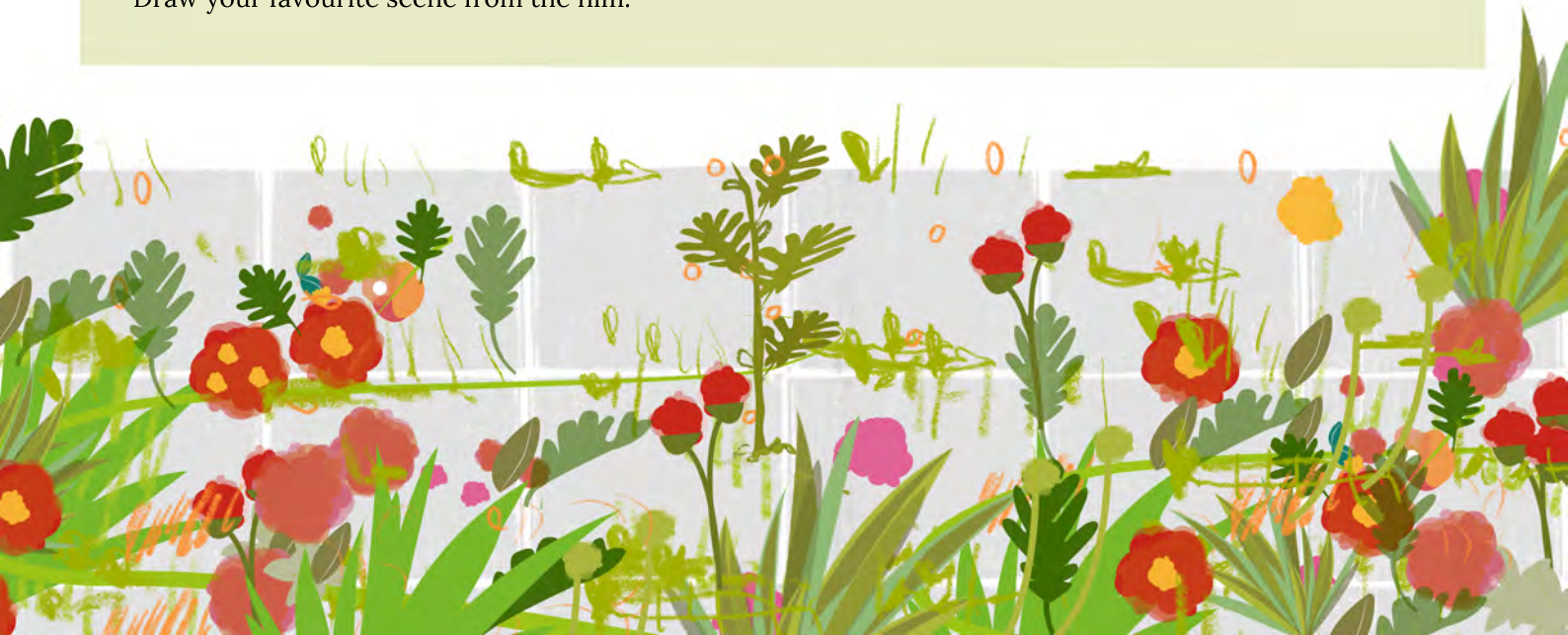
Now that you've discussed the film and explored your own connection with nature in groups, it's time to explore these themes and the beautiful visuals of the The Promise through colour and creativity. Don't be afraid to let your imagination run wild and set your inner artist free!

These activities are suitable for groups and individuals.

Objective: Using The Promise visuals as your inspiration, choose a couple of these nature connected creative briefs. Earlier activities are more suited to younger ages.

CREATIVE EXPLORATIONS (40 mins)

- Make a leaf rubbing
- Finger paint a forest
- Learn the names of and draw 5 different types of tree
- Draw a picture of yourself dancing in a garden
- What do you notice when you're walking in a nature space?
- Cut out colourful paper shapes to create plants in the style of The Promise
- Write a poem about how you feel when you're outside in nature
- Visualise what it feels like to be immersed in nature
- Paint a birds eye view of where you live
- Draw your favourite scene from the film.



Actioning The Promise pt.1

'THEY TALKED AND LAUGHED...AND PRETTY SOON THEY WERE PLANTING TOO'

Now you've watched the film, discussed the importance of staying nature connected and channeled the beauty of nature into some creative acts - it's time for action!

Just like the young girl in The Promise makes a pledge to bring back nature to all the neighborhoods she visits - the power is in your hands to make that same promise in your community. Here are some ideas for sewing seeds for the future...

ACORN PLANTING

A fun and easy way to activate the beginnings of a Promise in your school is to get planting! But first you'll need to understand how it works... an adventure awaits!

Autumn is the perfect time for collecting seeds, acorns & conkers to plant. Set your students the challenge of bringing in acorns/conkers/seeds to school - then follow this step by step guide from The Woodlast Trust on how to grow trees in your classroom!

CONNECTING WITH LOCAL PLANTING PROJECTS

Once the curiosity for planting trees has been sparked - why not try and extend the positive actions. Find out who the local tree planting / food growing organisations are near your school and get in touch.

Maybe one Friday a month a different class goes to help plant trees? Maybe the local planting organisation would come into your school to deliver an assembly?



Actioning The Promise pt.2

'TREES AND FLOWERS, IN PARKS & GARDENS, ON BALCONIES AND ROOFTOPS'

Bringing The Promise to life in communities and creating lasting change will take working as a team with our parents, teachers, neighbours, businesses, councils and government.

Younger generations must hold themselves accountable to their future actions as well as being promised to be supported in their efforts by those in power.

PROMISES TO OUR FUTURE SELVES

Download our postcard promise template (coming soon!). This postcard is split into two sections. In one half there is an area to write a promise to your future self. and our planet? A chance for you to dream big and get creative with your promises.

The other half is a space to be filled in by a parent or caregiver. Take your postcard home - and ask your parent or caregiver to fill in the other half.

SEND POSTCARD PROMISES TO YOUR LOCAL MP

To make lasting change we need to put pressure on those in power to promise us they will be committed to a greener, more nature centric future.

Send your students postcard promises to your local MP and consider what you want them to promise your school in return. A traffic free street for your school? A community garden? A tiny forest? An allotment? A wildflower corridor?

