

Film guide

Spirited Away

Japan | 2001 | Cert. PG | 125 mins
 Director: Hayao Miyazaki

On their way to a new home, Chihiro and her family become lost driving through the forest. When they happen upon an open-air restaurant with delicious-smelling food laid out but nobody to serve them, her parents decide to help themselves. Chihiro is uneasy, and when a spell is cast on her parents she needs the help of a mysterious boy named Haku to help her break it.



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You will like this film if you liked

Inside Out (2015, U)



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Watch next

When Marnie Was There (2014, U)



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Talk about it

What kind of feelings might you have if you were moving away to a new home? Would they be positive, negative, or both?

What do you know about Japan? Do you know what clothes people traditionally wear, what kind of food they eat, and what the houses are like?

Discussion points

- How does Chihiro feel about moving home? How can you tell what her emotions are?
- What happens during the transformation of the abandoned park into the spirit world (00:10:49 – 00:13:59)? How does Chihiro react? How does the music help to create the atmosphere?
- Why do you think No-Face decides to follow Chihiro? What does he want from her? How does her behaviour towards him differ from how the others treat him?
- How does Chihiro change during the film? What do you think she learns from her adventure?

Write about it

Bring your ideas together in a review and share it on our Into Film clubs' website. You could include a summary of the story, mention other films that it's similar to, describe what you particularly liked or disliked and give it your star rating.

Extension Activities

Inspired by the animation in the film, design a spirit world version of yourself as though you were one of the guests at Yubaba's bath house. Would you look like an animal, or be inspired by other elements in nature? Would you wear traditional Japanese clothing? What special powers might you have? Give yourself a new spirit world name and share your drawing with the group.