Kiki’s Delivery Service

Japan | 1989 | Cert. U | 103 mins
Director: Hayao Miyazaki

There comes a time when we all have to set out on our own, and for witch-in-training Kiki that moment comes when she turns 13. As part of her calling she must spend a year away from home. Kiki ventures to a pretty seaside town and finds adventure awaiting her. This is an enjoyable film from Studio Ghibli; creator of such classics as Spirited Away.

You will like this film if you liked
Pippi Longstocking (2000, U)

Talk about it
If you were moving to a new place what things would you look for in an ideal new town?

Can you think of any witches you have seen in films or books? What are the typical features of a witch? What do they look like? What do they do?

Discussion points
• What makes Kiki similar or different to other witches you have seen?
• Watch Kiki’s arrival in the city (00:14:00 - 00:16:27) How would you describe the city? Is it busy or quiet? Friendly or frightening? Link your ideas to examples you see in the clip.
• Why does Kiki choose to run a delivery service? What qualities does Kiki have that make her especially good at her job? What other talents do characters in the film have?
• Why do you think Kiki loses her powers? What helps her get them back? What or who helps you feel better when you don’t feel like yourself?

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
Draw a picture of yourself and label it with all your talents and skills. Swap your drawing with a partner to see if they can add any ideas of things that you are good at. Then write down ways you could use these talents to help other people.