

Film guide

Hunt for the Wilderpeople

New Zealand | 2016 | Cert. 12 | 97 mins
Director: Taika Waititi

After a string of petty misdemeanours, 12 year-old Ricky is sent to live with Bella and her husband Hec in the countryside. The change of pace is good for Ricky. However, all is turned upside down when events suddenly force Ricky to flee into the bush, with Hec hot on his heels. Having previously kept their distance, the two find themselves bonding deep in the wilderness.



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You will like this film if you liked

Moonrise Kingdom (2012, 12)



Focus Features © (2012) All rights reserved.

Watch next

Beasts of the Southern Wild (2012, 12)



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Talk about it

What do you know about New Zealand and its culture? Can you think of any films that were made or are set there?

Have you heard the term “odd couple” applied to film? What expectations does this create for what you’re about to watch?

Discussion points

- What impression do we get of Ricky’s life before he met Bella and Hec? What kindnesses does Bella show Ricky that make him stop wanting to run away?
- How would you describe Ricky and Hec’s relationship? In what ways does it alter over the course of the film?
- Hec teaches Ricky the importance of “the knack” for survival in the wilderness. What does he mean by this and how can it be applied to other areas of the film, or the real world?
- Watch [01:07:59-01:09:40](#). How does this sequence make use of [elliptical editing](#) (compressing a long period of time into a few seconds)? Why do you think the filmmakers use the camera to suggest this sequence is mostly one shot? How do you think this was achieved and what effect does it have?
- How does the film emphasise the importance of humour, creativity, and friendship to help people through difficult times? Do you agree? Why?

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 film, compose a haiku or make a drawing that illustrates a memorable period or adventure in your life, or that pays tribute to somebody important to you.