

SMURFS™

THE LOST VILLAGE

IN THEATERS APRIL 7



Discussion Guide INTRODUCTION

In this fully animated, all-new take on the Smurfs, a mysterious map sets Smurfette and her best friends Brainy, Clumsy and Hefty on an exciting and thrilling race through the Forbidden Forest, filled with magical creatures, to find a mysterious lost village before the evil wizard Gargamel does. Embarking on a rollercoaster journey full of action and danger, the Smurfs are on a course that leads to the discovery of the biggest secret in Smurf history!

Smurfs: The Lost Village is fun for the whole family and, like all good family films, full of talking points for post-screening conversations. Below are a few discussion starters on important themes in the film.



Get your tickets to be the first to see SMURFS: THE LOST VILLAGE in theaters at the special sneak peek on March 25th.

SMURFS™

THE LOST VILLAGE

COMPLEX IDENTITIES



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A central theme of *Smurfs: The Lost Village* is Smurfette's "lack" of an identity...or rather her incomplete understanding of who she is. The rest of the Smurfs know themselves by what they do (Table Eater!) or by a key element of their personality like Brainy or Clumsy. Although Smurfette is a member of her village, the rest of the Smurfs don't know what a Smurfette is because they can't identify one thing she does consistently. In the process, they miss the point and Smurfette, by being who she is, reminds us of an important lesson. We can't be boiled down to one thing. Our identities are complex.

How would you describe yourself? It certainly wouldn't be with one word, would it? You would probably be frustrated if people only interacted with you based on one element of your identity or personality. We are often quick to do just that. We form opinions of people based on what they look like, how they dress, where they live or even by their past actions. In reality, every single one of us is more complex than we can possibly ever know.

Like Clumsy, Hefty and Smurfette, we often need to go on a journey with someone—or many journeys—to fully get to know one another.

Questions for Consideration

1. What are the ingredients that make you, you?
2. Have you ever been surprised by someone that you had previously misjudged? How?



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A SERVANT'S HEART



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As we just saw, one of the main points of *Smurfs: The Lost Village* is Smurfette coming to an understanding of the complexity of her identity. However, there is another element of this discovery worth noting. Smurfette discovers her true self while in service to others. When she goes on the journey to warn the lost village that they are in danger, she is protecting them and putting herself in harm's way in the process. Though Smurfette has a particular identity, this is a universal experience.

No matter who we are or what we do, we can serve others. Even if service isn't built into our careers, like nurses or doctors, we can still put our skills to good use in helping others. It might be as simple as doing what we do, but for free. . .on a responsible schedule of course! Or it could be that we just need to check in on an elderly neighbor from time to time or cook a meal for the family of a newborn.

If we're struggling to find our identities or purpose in life, perhaps service is a great place to start. Like Smurfette, it might unlock secrets and strengths we didn't know we possessed.

Questions for Consideration

1. How is service a part of your life?
How can you make it a bigger part?
2. Where do you see others using their careers to serve?



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A
TIME
FOR
BRAVERY



One important characteristic of Smurfette is her bravery. Uncertain of what lies beyond the wall, she sets out to warn the other community of Smurfs. She weathers a treacherous terrain in the Forbidden Forest and, when she arrives, stands with the Smurfs—who she doesn't even know—to protect them from Gargamel's attack.

We're probably not going to set off on a journey to find a lost village, but we encounter daily opportunities to embrace bravery. We need to be brave in order to make a new friend, get a new job, move to a new city or start a new school. Without bravery, we don't move forward in life. Without bravery, we will leave our friends, family, and neighbors without the heroes of their stories.

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Questions for Consideration

1. When have you embraced bravery?
What did you sacrifice and what did you gain in the process?
2. When have you been inspired by someone's bravery?
Who was it and what did they do that inspired you?



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OUR PAST
DOESN'T HAVE TO
DEFINE US



There's a shocking revelation in the film when we learn that Gargamel actually created Smurfette and intended to use her for evil—to infiltrate the Smurfs' village. It's a reality that almost puts her in danger, but she, and her friends, refuse to let that part of her past define her.

We all have a past. In some cases they're pleasant and life-giving, sources of inspiration and motivation. However, some of us might have "darker" pasts, full of pain and regrettable decisions. The good news is that we don't have to let those define us. We can overcome difficult pasts. We can form new relationships or repair broken ones to form communities that will sustain us moving forward. We can atone for regrettable decisions and actions by serving others and making amends for what was broken.

Part of growing up and becoming wiser is knowing what to hold on to and what to release, with respect to our past. This isn't always easy, but it's necessary.

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Questions for Consideration

1. What motivates or excites you from your past?
2. What do you regret? How does it shape the way you live now?



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LOVED
INTO
BEING



There's something joyful about the Smurf village, which is embodied by Papa Smurf, in particular, his relationship with Smurfette. Though Gargamel intended Smurfette for evil, Papa Smurf changed her for good. Although we don't see it, Papa Smurf loved her into a new identity. He showed her a different way of living and interacting with her fellow Smurfs. He changed her life and her path. When her life was on the line, it was his love, along with the love of the other Smurfs, that brought her back to life.

It sounds cheesy, but now more than ever, love is the answer. The questions are almost irrelevant given how powerful love can be. What if we all lived life from a point of unconditional love? What if every interaction we had, every choice we made, came from a place of unconditional love for everyone and our planet? It would be more than enough to build some amazing communities and, just maybe, save some lives in the process.

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Questions for Consideration

1. What drives your decision-making and interactions with others?
2. How could love re-shape your choices and actions?

