

Finding Nemo

Reviewer: Laura Antal

“First we go out, and back in. And then we go out a second time, and back in.”

Finding Nemo opens with a tragic incident in which Marlin the clownfish loses his wife and family, leaving Marlin to become an overprotective single dad to his son Nemo.



Marlin and Nemo have a close relationship, but the father’s concern for his child’s safety means that Nemo’s life is punctuated by rules that discourage curiosity and treat others with suspicion. When Nemo is captured and taken far from home, Marlin is forced to break his own rules when he ventures out into the ocean to save his son. He’s also forced to engage in community – he comes to rely on the kindness of strangers, to trust in their abilities and good intentions, and slowly, he begins to come out of his self-imposed exile and to open up his heart again.

This tale is fun, smart, and heartwarming. Marlin and Nemo are both pushed to their personal limits and find themselves exploring new terrain. Their separate journeys actually bring them closer together. Each gains a new appreciation for the importance of friends and community and a better sense of life and what it means to live.

Finding Nemo teaches us that if we don’t allow ourselves to take risks, reach out to others, make mistakes, and explore life, we hinder our ability to advance and achieve in life. It’s a tale of love, adventure, support, and growth for kids of all ages!

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