



Noi Albinoi
(Iceland 2003, 82 Minutes, Icelandic with English subtitles)
Director: Nathaniel Kahn
Study Guide

Synopsis

The film follows a teen non-conformist whose dreams are frostbitten by dead-end small-fjord life. 17-year-old Noi ditches school, rebels against authority, and fantasizes about escaping his desolate Icelandic town. Misunderstood at school and by his family – a loving but aging grandmother, alcoholic father and absent mother – Noi’s lively spirit is stifled. Hope appears with the arrival of city girl Iris. Inspired, he hatches a madcap scheme to escape to Hawaii. But Noi’s path to escape will not be an easy or predictable one. The film has striking cinematography, audacious storytelling and a universal theme in a unique setting.

Themes in the Film

Isolation
Family Relations
Teenage angst, Frustration
Small town life

Study Questions

- What are some of the issues you have had to face as a teen growing up in today’s society? Have these issues ever prompted you to rebel against adult authority?
- Where would you recommend a friend go to for support when he/she is misunderstood at home and at school?
- Have you ever made some major mistakes in your life? What did you do to undo the damage done?

Discussion Questions

- Noi feels trapped in his small, boring fjord town. Do you ever have similar feelings of captivity even though you live in a bustling city? If so, what do you do to combat those feelings?
- What about Noi’s troubles as a 17-year-old are universal? Which problems are more particular to his situation? Why do you think the film’s screenwriter chose to end the story that way? What do you imagine would happen to Noi in the future?