

The Secret of Kells

Ireland, France, Belgium | 2009 | Cert. PG
75 mins
Directors: Norah Twomey Tomm Moore

Brendan is a young boy in medieval Ireland, whose community is under siege. He is beckoned to adventure when a master illuminator arrives with an ancient, but unfinished book, containing secret wisdom. To help complete the book, Brendan must face his deepest fears in an enchanted forest, full of mythical creatures. This magical animation is a triumph of innovative hand-drawn techniques.



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You will like this film if you liked

Spirited Away (2001, PG)



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Sword in the Stone (1963, U)



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Talk about it (before the film)

The Secret of Kells is based on the legend that surrounds the real Book of Kells. An illuminated book containing the four gospels of the New Testament, what stories do you know from important religious texts?

There are lots of legends and mythological creatures explored in this film, what myths or mythical creatures do you know about already?

Talk about it (after the film)

- What was Brendan's uncle like? What were his main concerns?
- Brendan repeatedly disobeyed his uncle so he could help Aidan with the book. Why did he do this? Why was the book so important?
- The book is meant to bring light into darkness, what do you think that means?
- What did you think of the style of animation? Try to think of an example where you have seen this type of animation before.

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 Activity

Research the Book of Kells and study some of its illustrations. After that you could create your own illustrations for a text.