

A list of films on Children and Childhoods

Child Labor, Street Children, Poverty, Children and Violence/Health, Children's Rights

Stolen Childhood	Global and comparative with cases from Asia, Africa, South America and the US, discussion about causes and possible solutions
Children Underground	(Romania)
Children of Leningradsky	(Russia)
Salaam Bombay	(India)
Pixote	(Brazil)
Born into Brothels	India, poverty, stigma, empowerment and outsider "assistance", can spark a critical conversation about representation
Children of Secret	(Turkey)
Waiting for Sunrise	(Pakistan)
Ali Zaoua	(Morocco)
City of God	Street children and structural poverty, corruption and violence
A Kind of Childhood	Six years of a boy's life, who works with a rickshaw driver, and the many issues he struggles to overcome while working in the city, clearly demonstrates that merely offering free education is not enough http://directcinema.com/dcl/title.php?id=407
Sacrifice	By Ellen Bruno (1998) concerns the trafficking of Burmese girls into Thailand for prostitution
No Time for Play: Working Children in Nicaragua	Affinity Productions (2002)
Trilogia das Novas Familias (Trilogy of new families)	A trilogy of short stories about the lives of children affected by AIDS (about 7 minutes each) by Isabel Loronha. In Shangaan with Portuguese subtitles.
The 400 Blows	This is one of four or five films by Francois Truffaut that deal explicitly with children in deeply moving and haunting ways. Themes include the importance of language, education, poverty, and empathy.
Ulan Bator	Street kids in Mongolia
Children of Tibet: The Exile Generation	Street kids
Bus 174 (Onibus 174)	A Brazilian documentary about a young man who hijacks a bus in Rio; teach about lives of street children and trace the relationships between structural and other forms of violence.
Clown Children	From the Norwegian Film Institute - a short observational documentary with no dialogue about two street children in Guatemala. http://www.nfi.no/english/norwegianfilms/show.html?id=619
Living Rights	A series of documentaries made by a Dutch filmmaker. Each film focuses on a specific child and uses their story to illustrate one of the rights included in the Declaration on the Rights of the Child. Recommended: 'Toti' and 'Yoshi'. http://www.dovanafilms.nl/lr.html
The Devil's Miner	About children working in the mines of Bolivia. (Kief Davidson & Richard Ladkani) A good documentary to see on the topic of child labor. It's the story of two brothers who work in silver mines in Bolivia to earn money so that they can continue going to school. http://www.thedevilsminer.com/index_new.html
Danger: Children at	Abstract: Documentary looking at child labour in agriculture, fast food and

Work	the garment industries in the US, with scenes from sweat shops in New York and fast food outlets in Boston, plus agricultural areas of Iowa, California and Florida.
We are Not Beggars	Abstract: This documentary depicts the life of several child street performers in a contemporary Chinese city. These children had been wandering the country as street performers for four years and are virtual "untouchables" to most Chinese. The camera follows them in their daily rounds through the streets, performing acrobatic tricks and begging. It captures their daily struggles for survival and their dream to return home and go to school, and looks at how these children face the challenges of a harsh environment with inner strength. Through this program we have a window on a little known aspect of Chinese society today and the realities facing so many of the world's children.
The Boys of Baraka	Abstract: The film reveals the human face of a tragic statistic — 61 percent of Baltimore's African-American boys fail to graduate from high school; 50 percent of them go on to jail. Behind those grim figures lie the grimmer realities of streets ruled by drug dealers, families fractured by addiction and prison and a public school system seemingly surrendered to chaos.
Not One Less	(China, 2000) Master Chinese filmmaker Zhang Yimou (Raise the Red Lantern) turns his lens on the travails of modern China's peasants. Wei (Wei Minzhi) is a 13-year-old girl pressed into serving as a substitute teacher in the school where she just graduated. If she keeps her class intact, she will receive a bonus. But when a student leaves for the city, she follows and strives relentlessly to bring him back.

Children and Family, Refugee Children

Turtles can Fly	Kurdish children in a refugee camp on the Iraq-Turkish border; children's economic activities and roles in the war economy, gendered outcomes of war on children, children's rights in war situations; children in film are from the refugee camp portrayed, not professional actors, so there are interesting discussion to be had about the filmmaking itself as well. In Kurdish with English subtitles. Allows for the viewer to think and analyze the movie and the happenings in this movie relating to children on issues of agency, children' rights, poverty, children as consumers, etc. This movie does not deal with these issues as explicitly as a documentary would. Instead, you can use it as a way of creating discussion and analyzing various situations and pieces in the movie to further develop discussion on those exact topics that you had mentioned.
Everyone's Child	Older film that was written and directed by Tsitsi Dangarembga, the famous novelist. Tells the story of a child-headed home in Zimbabwe and how the various children in the family and members of their community try to (or fail to) support their survival and livelihood. A lot on gendered children's survival strategies, and children's rights (protection, education, etc.). It is supposedly the first feature film directed by a black Zimbabwean woman. The ending is really interesting; the movie was funded by international organizations, who wanted a different ending. Dangarembga and the African production crew apparently refused the proposed ending and kept the one included in the movie. In English.
Lost Boys of Sudan	(Sudan, USA) Deals with refugees adjusting to life in the United States, touching on international and immigration aid and policies.
Rain in a Dry Land	(Somalia, USA) Deals with refugees adjusting to life in the United States, touching on international and immigration aid and policies.
God Grew Tired of Us	On same theme as Lost Boys

Benjamin and his Brother	On same theme as Lost Boys. Recommended alongside essays by Dianna Shandy.
Forbidden Games	Abstract: The film recounts the death of five-year-old Paulette's parents and of her pet dog in a Nazi air attack on a column of refugees fleeing Paris, France during World War II. In the chaos, the traumatized child meets ten-year-old Michel Dollé whose peasant family will take her in. She quickly becomes attached to Michel as her big brother and the two attempt to cope with the death and destruction that surrounds them by secretly building a small cemetery where they bury her dog and then start to bury other animals, stealing crosses from the local graveyard.
Central Station	(Brazil, 1998) Abstract: Dora, who writes letters for illiterate people at Rio de Janeiro's central railroad station, feels compelled to help 9-year-old Josué locate his estranged father after the child's mother dies in a car accident. As Dora and the boy bond during their journey to Brazil's remote Northeast region, the interplay between them is delightful to watch.
Ponette	(France, 1996) Abstract: When her mother dies in a car accident, 4-year-old Ponette is left physically and emotionally scarred and in the care of her grief-stricken father. Sent to live with family for a while, Ponette sullenly navigates a world made up mostly of children's faces and slowly comes to terms with her loss.
Abril Despedaçado	By Walter Salles. Abstract: The Brazilian badlands, April 1910. Tonho is ordered by his father to avenge the death of his older brother. The young man knows that if he commits this crime, his life will be divided in two: the 20 years he has already lived and the few days he has left to live, before the other family avenges their son's death. He is torn between fulfilling his ancestral duty and rebelling against it, urged by his younger brother Pacu. That's when a tiny traveling circus passes through the vast badlands where Tonho's family lives.

Children as Consumers

Consuming Kids	
Mickey Mouse Monopoly	http://www.mediaed.org/cgi-bin/commerce.cgi?preadd=action&key=112
Barbie nation	Abstract: Journeying from Barbie conventions to anti-Barbie demonstrations, from girls' play dates to Barbie web pages, Barbie nation plumbs the cult of the Barbie doll, telling the Barbie stories of diverse men, women and children
Still killing us softly: advertising's image of women	Abstract: Discusses the manner in which women continue to be portrayed by advertising and the effects this has on women, men, and children and their images of themselves
The Doll Test	Updated version by Kira Davis...it can be found on youtube.

Political Lives of Children

Promises	Political lives of Israeli and Palestinian children
A Song for Argyris	Memory, violence, trauma, political activism, and how children's experiences shape their current and later lives in complex ways (<i>can see review by Kendra Coulter in forthcoming Anthropologica</i>)
Live and Become	About an Ethiopian Christian boy who disguises himself as an Ethiopian Jew in order to escape famine and emigrates to Israel
Murder on a Sunday Morning	(US, 2001) Abstract: Reopened murder case that involved a potentially incorrect suspect and shocking tales of police corruption. A 15-year-old African-American accused of murdering a woman in Florida, was

	condemned by everyone involved with the case. But Butler's lawyer eventually reopened the investigation and found some crucial evidence to support his client's innocence.
War Dance	Children in Uganda, War and the National Music Competition http://www.wardancethemovie.com/
Pan's Labyrinth	(Spain, 2006) In this fairy tale for adults, 10-year-old Ofelia stumbles on a decaying labyrinth guarded by Pan, an ancient satyr who claims to know her destiny. With a new home, a new stepfather -- a Fascist officer in the pro-Franco army -- and a new sibling on the way, nothing is familiar to Ofelia in this multiple Oscar-winning tale set in 1944 Spain from director Guillermo del Toro.

Cross-Cultural Perspectives, Children's Everyday Experiences

From the Ikpeng children to the world	Abstract: Four Ikpeng children introduce their village by answering a video-letter sent from children of Cuba's Sierra Maestra. They show their families, their toys, their celebrations, and their way of life with grace and lightheartedness. Curious about children from other cultures, they hope that their video-letter will be answered.
The Child Brides	Abstract: In many parts of Africa, Asia, and South America, young girls are often engaged by the age of eight, and leave their homes to join their husbands by twelve. In many cases, the younger the girl, the more her family receives in the form of a dowry. This program travels to the most rural and poverty stricken regions of Ethiopia to expose the common practice of child brides and the consequences for the young girls who often give birth before they are out of childhood.
Children of Heaven	(Iran, 1999) Abstract: A delightful Iranian movie about a boy who accidentally loses his sister's shoes and must share his own sneakers with her in a sort of relay while each attends school at different times during the day. Finally, the boy enters a much-publicized foot race, hoping to place third. The prize: a new pair of sneakers.
Cave of the Yellow Dog	(Mongolia, 2005) Abstract: About the disappearing ways of nomadic life in Mongolia. Young Nansal, the oldest daughter of an actual nomad family, finds a stray dog that quickly becomes her close companion, despite her parents' disapproval. The film depicts the herdspeople's everyday tasks for livelihood and survival, while the city beckons from afar.
The Mirror	(Iran, 1998) Abstract: Jafar Panahi's film within a film follows a young girl as she tries to make her way home through the big city of Tehran. When her mother fails to pick her up after school, the girl dares to get home on her own. She boards a bus, timidly absorbs the events going on around her and then impetuously declares that she doesn't want to be in Panahi's film anymore. The camera crew scurries after her as she tries to lose them.
Highway Courtesans	Abstract: This provocative coming-of-age film chronicles the story of a bold young woman born into the Bachara community in Central India – the last hold-out of a tradition that started with India's ancient palace courtesans and now survives with the sanctioned prostitution of every Bachara family's oldest girl. Guddi, Shana and their neighbor Sungita serve a daily stream of roadside truckers to support their families. Their work as prostitutes forms the core of the local economy, but their contemporary ideas about freedom of choice, gender and self-determination slowly intrude on the Bachara way of life. HIGHWAY COURTESANS follows Guddi from the ages of 16 through 23 as she turns her world upside down, incurring the wrath of her fathers and brother as she struggles with tradition, family and love in hopes of realizing her dreams. In probing

	<p>beyond the surface of a world of paradoxes, HIGHWAY COURTESANS resists easy moralizing and reveals the very real costs – financial, social and personal – for breaking with tradition. As a community hangs in the balance between traditional and contemporary values, this gripping documentary raises universal questions about sex, the roles of women, and the right of one culture to judge another.</p> <p>http://www.wmm.com/filmcatalog/pages/c654.shtml</p>
Children of Shadows	<p>Abstract: A 54-minute documentary that portrays children in Haiti. The film follows the children as they go through their daily chores - the endless cycle of cooking, washing, sweeping, mopping, going to the market, going to fetch water, going to run errands, etc. In heartbreaking interviews, the children speak openly and shyly about the lives they are forced to lead. The "aunts" (adoptive caretakers) speak openly and proudly of the vast mountain of work that "their" restavèk does for them. The camera goes deep into the countryside to interview the peasant families as to what kind of situation would force them to give away one or several of their children. Haitian social workers and economists who have spent time with the restavèks speak of the causes and possible solutions to this situation. Narrated entirely by the people themselves in their native Creole (English sub-titles), and with original Haitian music laced throughout the film, the documentary is both emotional and informative. It is the first feature-length documentary to be made on this subject, which until recently, had rarely been talked about.</p>
Childhood	PBS series on Melvin Konner's work
Growing Pains	<p>Abstract: Growing Pains is about Júlia, a black Angolan woman in her mid-twenties, who came to Portugal with a maternal aunt in March 1992. The story of how she arrived in Portugal and what happened to her afterwards is dramatic, and we follow her as she tries to make sense out of her life. As much as being a portrait of Júlia, the film highlights ambivalences that are common to many migrants: ambivalent feelings of belonging, the importance of intergenerational relations and the relation between the past, the present and the future. On one level, the film tells the story of Júlia and her life in the clandestine settlement of Cova da Moura in Greater Lisbon. On another level, however, the film is about her pathway of migration and the impact it has had on her life. Hence the title Growing Pains, alluding both to the pain of growing up and the pain of growing as a person. Her daughter Magui, who was six years old when the filming took place, also has a central role in the film. While Júlia talks of her own childhood and the challenges she has had in her life, we are introduced to Magui who is about to start school. This was a very important event for Magui, but also for Júlia who herself had a traumatic educational trajectory. The film ends with the mother's hopes and thoughts about her daughter's future, suggesting the existence of passing time and two life stories playing out within different temporalities. But above all, the narrative structure of the film moves from a focus on Júlia's life story and the past, through vignettes from their everyday life and the present, before it ends with Magui starting school and Júlia's attempt to envision her daughter's future. <i>Can also search for other films by Cecilie Øien</i></p>
The Up Series	<p>Abstract: The Up Series consists of a series of documentary films that have followed the lives of fourteen British children since 1964, when they were seven years old. The children were selected to represent the range of socio-economic backgrounds in Britain at that time, with the explicit assumption that each child's social class predetermines their future. Every seven years, the director, Michael Apted, films new material from as many</p>

	of the fourteen as he can get to participate. The latest film, 49 Up, was released in September 2005; filming for the next installment in the series, 56 Up, is expected in late 2011 or early 2012.
La Mémoire Dure (The Memories Last)	Abstract: In a special class in a primary school in Paris, France, children from Asia, South America and Africa, learn French through intensive courses. The film explore their integration among the French nationality pupils and the French society, the time between two languages, two places, two cultures and the space of recollection and building of new identities of young immigrants. <i>Can also search other films by Rosella Ragazzi</i>
Ma Vie En Rose	(France, 1997) Seven-year-old Ludovic is convinced he's a girl trapped in a boy's body in this whimsical Belgian film. His expressions of sexual identity, which include wearing dresses and starring in a classroom performance of "Snow White," put a strain on his family and elicit teasing and intolerance from his schoolmates and neighbors. Ma Vie En Rose was an international film festival smash and received a Best Foreign Film Golden Globe.

Popular Titles

--could be used for analyzing a variety of themes, helping students translate theoretical issues into everyday lives

(Note: Kate Barrett has longer list for her course on Child Maltreatment, she is willing to share)

Oliver Twist	Poverty
Salaam Bombay	Poverty
Charlie and Chocolate Factory	Children as consumers
Thirteen	Children as consumers
Clueless	Children as consumers
<i>Any kid's movie that has a lot of product placement</i>	Have a discussion about how these kinds of movies are generating a kind of ideal for children based on material consumption rather than spiritual or personal connection.
<i>Old cartoons that depict racist images</i>	

Other Resources:

National Film Board of Canada

<http://www.nfb.ca/index.php>

<http://www.nfb.ca/collection/films/resultat.php?ids=55&nom=Children%20and%20Youth&type=sous-categorie>

USU/David Lancy Anthropology of Childhood Website

<http://www.anthropologyofchildhood.usu.edu/films.html>

The Concerned for Working Children

www.workingchild.org

http://www.workingchild.org/publication_files/Film_Catalogue.pdf%20on%20the%20web.pdf