

Timmy Time: Timmy's Hiccup Cure

Timmy Time: Timmy's Hiccup Cure was produced by Aardman Animations Ltd for BBC based in UK. Being an 'only lamb in the flock' Timmy has been used to getting his own way. Now for the first time Timmy is going to have to learn to get along with other little animals. Each episode follows a day in the life of Timmy and his friends in the Nursery. The daily routine is usually disrupted when Timmy or one of the class is naughty, or over inquisitive, or sibling rivalry erupts. For the young animals it's all in the day to day experience of learning about life, friendship and trial and error. Timmy is the central character and the stories revolve around him. Storylines are strong but simple enough to be told without dialogue using a unique combination of expressive character animation, gesture and reactions, comedy and slapstick, baahs, quacks and oinks etc.

Timmy Time: Timmy's Hiccup Cure was one of the PRIX JEUNESSE INTERNATIONALE 2010 finalists in the "up to 6 fiction" category.

International experts' opinions



Figure 1: Timmy and his classmates are having a reading class.



Figure 2: A lamb begins to hiccup.

Many international experts loved the fact that the program did not have any words. "I think it is beautiful. What I really like is that it is speechless. It is a relief that we have here a program where there are no words that you have to listen to. You can just go into the atmosphere. That is what I find is very beautiful. I think it has a very unique humour. But this you can understand all over the world. That is very nice" (female expert, Denmark). "To go for ten minutes without dialogue is quite an exceptional feat; you really have to put the story together" (moderator).

They also admired the simplicity of the program. "It is funny, because I have seen lots of *Tim-*



Figure 3: The owl teacher tells the lamb to breathe deeply to stop the hiccup.



Figure 4: Timmy tries to cure the lamb's hiccup by moving his jaw.



Figure 5: Timmy asks the lamb to jump to stop the hiccup.



Figure 6: Afterwards, they find that jumping can not stop hiccup either.

my Time, and they don't seem long, because usually they have a bit more to their story. I was really surprised with this one – I agree that the story seems to be a very simple story compared to a lot of their other episodes” (female expert, Australia).

The international experts also loved the characters. “I think the characters are adorable” (male expert, US). Some thought that the program was “too long” (female expert, Colombia). The program was a good way to present learning for the children. “I thought the little song at the beginning, which was: *he is a little lamb with lots to learn, but he is always having fun*. I thought that was good: learning for fun” (female expert, New Zealand).



Figure 7: Timmy makes a huge sound and startles the hiccuping lamb.



Figure 8: To thank Timmy, the lamb gives him something to snack. After eating the snack, Timmy begins to hiccup.

screenshots from *Timmy Time: Timmy's Hiccup Cure* © BBC

However, some international experts found the program confusing. “I think it was the middle piece – when they sit down and they are doing a lot of things, and you don't really understand if they are trying to stop the hiccups, or what are they doing? Then when they go further, the last bit you understand it again. But the whole middle bit, you don't understand a thing” (female expert, Denmark).

Target Audience 8,3	Idea 7,8	Script 7,5	Realization 8,5
Average Score per Category by experts' voters at PRIX JEUNESSE INTERNATIONALE 2010			