

Dalgo, the Great!

Dalgo, the Great! At every given moment, various animals and insects make many gestures and continuously send us signals about surviving in the world, even though we are not aware of it. If our children learn to catch those little and unnoticeable signs, they may consider these animals as their partners and learn to coexist with them. Children are highly interested in nature and animals. In this program, a lot of fun stories are presented about nature and animals. Animals are not just objects of observations, but they allow children to react emotionally to their stories. Dalgo represents curious children who are unpredictable and impatient, and because of that, want to see more and faster. The friend who travels with Dalgo is the slowest of creatures, Snail. Dalgo always brags about how much he knows about nature and animals, but as he slows down to adjust to Snail's speed, he realizes and learns about how much he had missed about the little things, such as little but significant movements of animals, being able to see the world from a new point of view. One day, Dalgo and Snail hitch a ride on a tractor and travel along a country road. They meet three ducklings in search of their mother.

Dalgo, the Great was one of the PRIX JEUNESSE INTERNATIONALE 2010 finalists in the “up to 6 non-fiction” category.

International experts' opinions

Almost all international experts liked the program and its message about nature, and found it appropriate for children of this age group. The program offered a learning process for children through the use of animals and the animated character of Dalgo presented in natural settings. The male expert from Korea explained, “It encourages children to just look at how the animals are. This is the focus of the program. There are 26 episodes. There are so many animals, insects, flies... they are the main characters of each episode.”

Dalgo is a famous character in Korea representing mainly preschoolers. “Dalgo wants to see nature very quickly and pass by. But, the snail recommends him to look slowly, slowly, and feel the nature. The snail makes him more emotional, to feel more about nature” (male expert, Korea).

The international experts admired the use of animals in the program. “I liked how the animals act; they are good – the ducks” (female expert, Japan). “I loved your idea of having animals talking. The animals had attitudes and feelings; they spoke with beautiful voices. I liked that very much” (female expert, New Zealand).

They were also impressed by the animation in the program. They

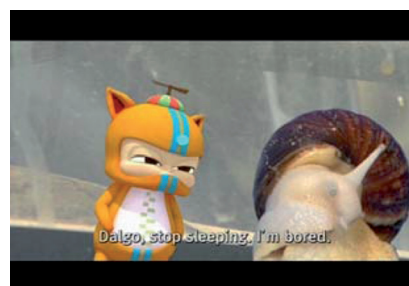


Figure 1: Dalgo met a snail and he began to slow down to see the world.



Figure 2: He met three ducklings looking for their mother.



Figure 3: They played hide-and-seek.

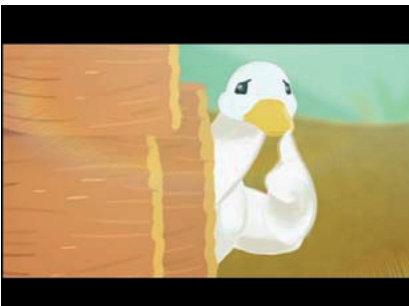


Figure 4: The ducklings' mom was caught.

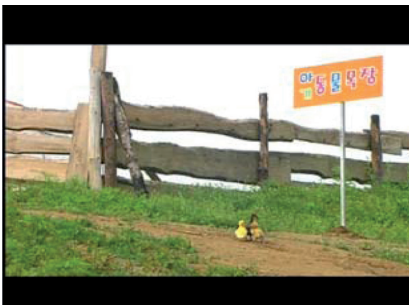


Figure 5: The ducklings were anxiously looking for their Mom.

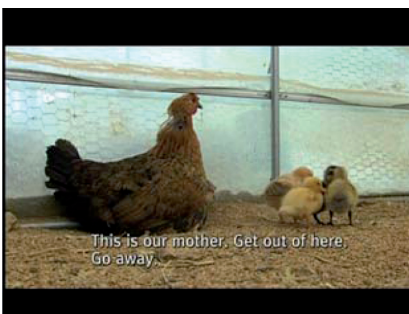


Figure 6: But they always found the wrong one.

found the concept of using animals with an animated character in their natural settings unique. “I was impressed with how the animated character – how they technically put him into the scenes, because that is hard to do. I was a little bit confused when it switched to animation, but then I am not a kid, and I am sure that kids wouldn’t be confused. Kids are so much smarter. In the way of using live footage with animals, I thought it was really sweet” (female expert, UK).

The international experts appreciated the way the program was directed. “The opening was really cute – the animation in the beginning. It was different than the rest of the show, but it was sort of sweet; the music was kind of nice and gentle. It was just different” (female expert, USA). They loved the program because it was quite appropriate for kids and was in reference to what they could understand and relate to. “I loved it. Kids love looking at baby animals” (female expert, UK).

Some international experts also felt that the program was actually promoting vegetarianism and Korean kids would get conflicting messages regarding their lifestyle. “I wonder if Korean children know that? They are grown for that; they eat them. I think as a child I would be vegetarian after this.” (female expert, Germany). “I was just curious what kind of message the kids are going to receive, because we always eat chicken. The message would be: *you shouldn’t eat any chicken, because they are the mothers*” (female expert, Japan).

Some, however, suggested that the program could have a better storyline. “The problem for me was that it was not organised – the story has no end” (female expert, Colombia).

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Figure 7: The ducklings' mom escaped and jumped out of the hay.



Figure 8: Dalgo began to miss his mom too.

screenshots from *Dalgo, the Great!*