

Good Question, Next Question

Good Question, Next Question was produced by Megahertz film and television based in Germany. In “Gute Frage, nächste Frage!” (**Good Question, Next Question**) the popular reporter from “Willi wills wissen” answers typical children’s questions. From “Why do we have to fart?” and “Why don’t sleeping birds fall off the branch?” to “How does a periscope work?” He is never at a loss for an answer to questions in these diverse knowledge fields. Each episode consists of three such everyday riddles that children from all over Germany have sent to him via e-mail, letter or video.

Good Question, Next Question was one of the PRIX JEUNESSE INTERNATIONAL 2010 finalists in the “up to 6 non-fiction” category.

International experts’ opinions

Most of the international experts were not convinced of the appropriateness of the program made for the children of up to age 6 category. “My first thought was that it might be for a slightly older audience. To me it seemed more like a 5-to 8-year-old target audience” (female expert, USA).

They appreciated that the program was trying to respond to the curiosity of young children but found the concepts very complicated and hard to grasp. “The idea of the periscope, although it is fun – I think for up to age 6 it is too difficult, even with parents watching. I think it would be difficult for the parents to be able to replicate the periscope and to do that successfully” (female expert, USA). Some of them were direct about their criticism: “My first thought was that the questions are probably too difficult for children that age” (female expert, Germany).

Some of the international experts were not happy with the pace of the program and “thought it was too fast” (female expert, Korea). The program attempted to achieve too much within a span of four minutes. “You couldn’t really distinguish. It was obviously three questions, but it is all happening in the same space, in the same time – I found it overwhelming” (female expert, South Africa). They thought that while the questions asked by the children were great, they required more advanced knowledge and even wondered if the children themselves asked those questions: “I just wondered who is sending in the questions? I don’t think it was kids’ questions” (female expert, Japan).



Figure 1: In this program Willi answers children’s questions.



Figure 2: How does a periscope work?



Figure 3: Wills used two mirrors to demonstrate how the periscope works.

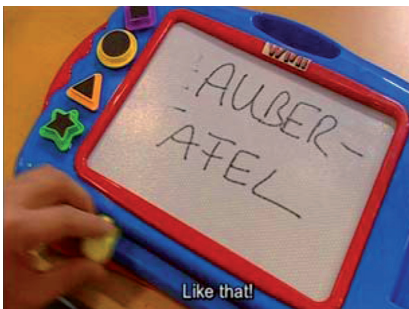


Figure 4: How does a magnetic slate work?

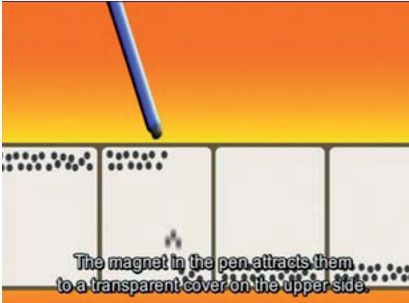


Figure 5: The magnet in the pen attracts the particles to the surface.

Some were not pleased with the visuals of the program. “I felt that there was too much talking and maybe a bit fast – not so much image to support everything he was saying” (female expert, Argentina).

They argued that the program failed to show the images of important elements discussed in the program which was necessary for this age category. “If you are four, you don’t really know what submarines do unless you show one” (male expert, UK).

However, some international experts felt that the program did stimulate children to think differently and ask questions about everyday riddles.

“It is nice for children to be able to ask diverse questions and get answers” (female expert, Sweden). “The feeling like you wanted to take a part: a watch, your toys; you want to see what is inside the teddy bear that makes the sound – is fantastic” (female expert, Israel). Although some international experts “do believe though that they are children’s questions” (female expert, Germany) still the program was not considered appropriate for kids of this category.



Figure 6: And you can erase the writings with a large magnet.



Figure 7: Why is the starting position in auto racing called the pole position?

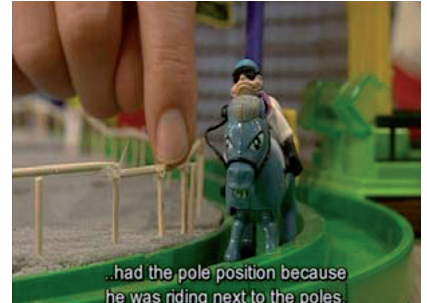


Figure 8: Wills use horseracing-racing to explain the pole position.

screenshots from Good Question. Next Question © Megahertz film

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