Synopsis

Woody is Andy’s favorite toy and goes with the little boy everywhere. But when Andy receives Buzz Lightyear, the latest action figure, for his birthday, Woody finds himself competing for Andy’s attention. This whimsical world of toys that come to life puts Woody and Buzz in exciting adventures and dangerous predicaments. Through it all, the two toys who were once at odds find they have more in common than they first believed.

Discussion Questions

• Think of your favorite toy. If it could take on a life of its own, like Woody, Buzz and the rest of Andy’s toys, what would it act like? Why?
• When Buzz arrives in Andy’s room, he believes that he is the one and only Buzz Lightyear and that he can fly. While the other toys laugh at Buzz’s belief and tell him he’s “just a toy,” Buzz creatively “flies” around the room. Because Buzz truly believed in himself, he was able to do something pretty amazing. How much of what we do is rooted in the belief we can? How has belief that you can do something helped you actually do it? What was it and how did you accomplish it?
• Woody has a difficult time accepting Buzz’s new popularity among Andy and the other toys. Toys aren’t the only ones who get jealous; people do too. Have you ever gotten jealous of someone or something before? Why? How did you deal with it?
• Andy’s toys work together as a team most of the time. Talk about all the instances throughout the film where the toys ran into trouble and worked together as a team to resolve the situation. How did each toy’s unique physical and personality traits help them in the situation?
• What are some unique traits you have that help you each day?
• Even though Sid plays the villain in the film, he is the reason lots of toys come together to work together. How does Sid help Woody and Buzz overcome their differences and become friends? How do Sid’s toys play a role in Buzz and Woody’s friendship?

Activities

• Even though Andy plays with his toys in his bedroom, the toys and Andy are taken on exciting journeys to the Wild West because of Andy’s vivid imagination. Like Andy, take the time to create a place that you have imagined using cardboard boxes, markers and other craft supplies so that you can take your toys on a fun and imaginative adventure! Here are some ideas:
  • The Wild Wild West
  • The Rainforest
  • A Pirate Ship
  • The Future
  • A Farm
• Sid’s little sister has a tea party with Buzz and her dolls. With your toys or with some friends, have a real tea party inside with the help of an adult.

Get Involved

• Toy Story highlights the importance of toys in a child’s life. Toys don’t need to be big and fancy or brand new to provide tremendous comfort to a child in need. Round up some gently used toys from your home or collect new toys from members of the community. Donating these toys to a daycare, afterschool organization, shelter or children’s hospice can add a little comfort to some other children.