

LITTLE NICOLAS' TREASURE

Original version: French / English subtitles



Director: *Julien Rappeneau*

Release date (Québec): *February 25, 2022*

Genre: *Comedy/Family*

Countries of origin: *France, Belgium*

Runtime: *102 min.*

CLASSIFICATION

<https://repertoire.cinema.mcc.gouv.qc.ca/film/le-tresor-du-petit-nicolas-429269/>



Synopsis

Nicolas et ses camarades forment le groupe des Invincibles. Lorsqu'ils ne sont pas en classe, leur quotidien est organisé autour de leurs jeux dans le terrain vague. Fils unique, Nicolas grandit dans une famille française typique des années 1960. Sa mère, au foyer, doit voir à tout et son père, employé de bureau, a un travail dont la nature reste plutôt abstraite pour tout un chacun. Un soir, le papa de Nicolas rentre à la maison avec une grande nouvelle : il sera promu directeur à la suite d'une acquisition que prévoit faire son patron. M. Moucheboume. Le problème, c'est que cette affectation les oblige à déménager à Aubagne, dans le sud du pays. Désespéré, Nicolas cherche à tout prix à faire dérailler cette entreprise, et pour cela il sait qu'il peut compter sur ses fidèles complices.



Motifs de classement

Inspirée des livres illustrés de Goscinny et Sempé, cette comédie met en scène un garçon d'environ 8 ans, élève moyen et faiseur de mauvais coups à ses heures, et sa bande de copains. Comme dans les précédents volets, le récit oppose le regard de l'enfance, candide et amusé, à celui des adultes, plus rigide ou préoccupé. Cela donne lieu à des commentaires sur la charge mentale et sur la notion de carriérisme servis dans une ambiance légère. Comme son titre l'indique, l'histoire comporte également une part d'aventure alors que le jeune héros est lancé sur la piste d'un trésor viking à deux pas de chez lui. En résulte une ode à l'amitié conçue pour divertir petits et grands.



Date de classement

23 février 2022

<https://www.imdb.com/title/tt15173948/parentalguide/>

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Content rating

Sex & Nudity: None	>
Violence & Gore: Mild	>
Profanity: None	>
Frightening & Intense Scenes: Mild	>

Sex & Nudity

+ Add an item

NONE 1 of 1 found this to have none [Vote](#)

Violence & Gore

+ Add an item

MILD 1 of 1 found this mild [Vote](#)

A boy hits another boy, no blood or wounds. ⋮

Profanity

+ Add an item

NONE 1 of 1 found this to have none [Vote](#)

Alcohol, Drugs & Smoking

+ Add an item

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Frightening & Intense Scenes

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MILD 1 of 1 found this mild [Vote](#)

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Le Trésor du Petit Nicolas (The Treasure of Little Nicolas) is aimed at a **family audience**, in particular children aged 8 and over, but also their parents who have grown up with the stories of **Little Nicolas** (...)

Released in cinemas on **October 20, 2021**, *Le Trésor du Petit Nicolas* is a **family comedy** directed by **Julien Rappeneau**, adapted from the universe created by **René Goscinny** and **Jean-Jacques Sempé**. Aimed at children aged 8 and over, the film follows the new adventures of **Petit Nicolas**, played by **Ilan Debrabant**, and his inseparable band of friends.

Sortir à Paris

SYNOPSIS

What Nicholas (9) loves most is playing with his gang of middle school pals, “The Invincibles”. Adorable, yet mischievous, they have all sorts of adventures together and life could not be better! So, when his dad gets promoted and announces that the family is relocating to the South of France, his world falls apart. Little Nicholas cannot live without his friends. But the pack has a plan to prevent this terrible relocation: a treasure hunt!

Unifrance

REVIEWS

A reliable guide to the good things in life, *Little Nicholas's Treasure* is a great deal of fun for anybody from the age of seven or eight.

BMA Mag

This does not prevent many sequences in which his parents find themselves alone, faced with comical situations. The film clearly shows its retro taste and nostalgia for a bygone era through the directing choices, with colours that are always bright and a sun that is constantly blazing, as if the story were taking place in August.

Mediapart (translation)

Little Nicholas' Treasure is a film full of tenderness, moving, (...) and which will make young and old smile.

La Presse (translation)

With this comedy in short pants, without mobile phones or social networks, Julien Rappeneau signs an irresistible, very funny and spirited film, faithful to the work of Goscinny and Sempé.

Le Parisien (translation)

A very nice family comedy.

Voici

This film is a wonderful opportunity to rediscover the whimsical and tender world of **Petit Nicolas**, where adventure and friendship are always present.

Sortir à Paris

DETAILS

LANGUAGE

The film is inspired by Goscinny's books illustrated by Sempé. The director Julien Rappeneau recreates the classic world of “Petit Nicolas” in a period between 1950 and 1960, when the language of both children and adults is proper and free of vulgarity.

Nicolas has a group of friends (“My pals are my gang”), each with a clear dominant trait that children can easily identify (fondness for food, liking to fight, seriousness, authority, etc.), which gives the film a tone that is both funny and tender.

At the beginning of the film, Nicolas clearly describes his friends' characteristics with the right vocabulary: **a quick portrait of the "Invincibles," Nicolas's gang.**

- **Alceste:** Nicolas's best friend, very greedy and always eating, a symbol of simple joy and comfort for him. He talks about croissants ("a croissant is sacred") and stuffs himself with pastries during the school search ("On a mission you need to stay fortified"), but the idea of a "hunger strike" makes him very anxious.
- **Clotaire:** A poor student, absent-minded and clumsy, who piles up blunders and creates many comic situations.
- **Agnan:** Top of the class, serious and studious, often the teacher's pet, who becomes more integrated into the gang in the film. He uses the excuse that he wears glasses to avoid physical tasks. He surprises the supervisor when he returns the whistles he stole, saying "I've never known the thrill of transgression" to justify the theft, and he knows that "stealing is wrong" but adds in his childlike wisdom: "to know what is right, you must know what is wrong."
- **Eudes:** A strong, impulsive boy who "tends to fight" and settles conflicts with his fists, while remaining loyal to Nicolas.
- **Geoffroy:** A child from a well-off family, used to presents and expensive objects, who sometimes shows off but is still a true friend.
- **Rufus:** The son of a policeman, often fascinated by anything to do with authority and by playing "cops and robbers."
- **Maixent:** A very active friend, "the one who runs the fastest."

The gang of invincible but not inseparable friends.

- Their quest for the treasure of One-Eye Olaf leads them to dreams about jewels, forest hikes, and wariness of the danger that surrounds the treasure: it could be trapped by "diabolical creatures that protect it from looters"
- But the key to the treasure lies in the dolphin, which has several meanings in French: a cetacean mammal or the king's eldest son.

Boys are very categorical in **separating the roles of girls and boys:** dance is for girls, says Nicolas. When the girls surprise the boys in their yard, they laugh at them: "Did you get lost? Want to play hopscotch? »

This distinction between the roles of women and men in the family is felt in the couple formed by Nicolas's parents.

Mum launches into a long litany of the duties she has as a housewife:

Poor dad, who's had such a gruelling day! ...To do the laundry, to hang it to dry, to go grocery shopping, to go home and realise he forgot the mustard, go back to the store, drop his jacket to the dry cleaner and..."

The mother continues with all the tasks to be accomplished for the move and the rearrangement:

*...wrapping furniture, clothes, plates, sorting out everything,
... Finding buyers for the house, saying goodbye...
Unpacking boxes, unpacking...*

The prospect of moving brings advantages of help to this very busy mother, a laundress [dad who says so] for example.

The dad, for his part, works, but Nicolas does not really understand what he does, and neither does the mom. For the children, it comes down to thinking that Nicolas' father is a "stapler officer". He shares a good strategy with his son Nicolas:

To do good work, you need good equipment

In this pre-feminist society, the father tries to help by making meals, looking after the house and even cleaning the mirror. His mother-in-law makes fun of him when he complains, saying that men have "a knack for making a mountain out of a molehill". The mother thinks that her apron suits her husband very well.

The father's promotion from employee to manager highlights **the social and workplace hierarchy**: his boss, Mr. Moucheboume, calls him "old chap" and does not listen to him. The father tries to hand in his resignation politely, flattering his boss on his moderation, wisdom, his composure, calm and pondering

The scene of the visit of the potential buyers of the house where Nicolas lives is very funny with a vocabulary about sewers, floods, suspicious smells both said and mimed.

The funniest characters belong to the school.

Bouillon, the deep-voiced supervisor, is very attached to his whistle, which gets stolen, and he feels that "stealing a whistle in a school is like attacking the Republic!" The headmaster makes fun of Bouillon: "It leaves me speechless" (literally "it cuts my whistle").

This is **a pun** he says, like several others he enjoys making that do not make anyone laugh:

"The solar system contest and the school system." *Le système solaire et le système scolaire*

"You are not lazy to the bone but to the marrow!" *c'est pas un poil que vous avez dans la main c'est une véritable barbe!*

"This smells like fish. Don't pick bones. No bones Dubon. No fishy bones Dubon" *C'est louche. Ouvrez l'œil M. Dubon et le bon sans loucher.* [double pun]

When the Headmaster loses the key to the ballot box, Bouillon gets his own back: "Have you misplaced it, or has someone maybe whistled it away from you?" *Vous l'avez égarée ou on vous l'a sifflée !?* [a nice play on words!]

- **The strict teacher**, Mrs Bouillaguet, only wants to punish her pupils: "You leave savages like that unsupervised?" she says to the nice teacher. "It's time to punish them," otherwise "they'll eat you alive." Teaching, for her, *means first giving orders and making sure they are obeyed; education is a combat sport.*
- **The nice teacher**, la Maîtresse, is called "my little honeybun" by her mother, but she is always caring towards her pupils, who love her.

VIOLENCE

The violence is purely **comic and very mild**: little shoves, kids horsing around, physical gags and moments of tension without any real harm. There are no realistic fight scenes, **no graphic injuries**, and no weapons used in a threatening way; the tone always remains playful.

The portrayal of violence is very stylized and cartoon-like, modeled on the world of Goscinny/Sempé: the emotional intensity is low, there is no blood, no serious injuries, and conflicts are resolved through humor or discussion.

- When the children's ball ends up in the yard of the old lady who has a small, noisy and aggressive dog, the children are afraid to go and get it.

- Still in this cartoon tradition, when Nicolas's father is repeating his apologies for resigning, he is interrupted by the untimely arrival of his boss, Mr. Moucheboume, and witnesses a big fit of anger in which the latter furiously breaks his tennis racket.
- The scene where Nicolas imagines himself in the penal colony but not Aubagne doing forced labor under the scorching sun.

NUDITY

Nothing to report

SEXUAL ACTIVITY

Nothing to report.

On one instance Nicola's parents show affection for each other: embrace and a little kiss

PSYCHOLOGICAL IMPACT / MESSAGES

POSITIVE IMPACT

The main messages focus on **friendship, solidarity** within a group, the importance of **family**, and the **children's ability to express their fears rather** than brood over their misunderstandings. The film highlights **mutual help** (the old lady no longer lives alone; she lives with her son and is reunited with her little dog), the children's **creativity** in coping with change, and the idea that a difficulty (a move) can be an opportunity to strengthen bonds and understand each other better.

The 32 years separating the two eclipses show **the strength of lasting friendship**. Nicolas's voice-over is very moving when he talks about his friends:

We were going to grow up. We would have wives, children... some things would still be there... [our friends] They would never really disappear, even when we no longer see them. They are always there, and for me that is the most beautiful of treasures.

MESSAGES THAT COULD WORRY/DISTRESS CHILDREN

The main impact is related to the fear of moving, separation from friends and a child's worries about adults' decisions. These themes are treated in a reassuring way, with a positive resolution, a warm visual atmosphere and a lot of humor, which greatly limits the anxiety-provoking potential for an audience from 7–8 years old; Below that, some more sensitive children may be troubled by the idea of having to leave their friends

For further detail on messages refer to

<https://www.filmspourenfants.net/le-tresor-du-petit-nicolas/>

GALERIE DES PERSONNAGES



JEAN-PAUL ROUVE & AUDREY LAMY
Papa & Maman



PIERRE ARDITI
M. Mouchebeurne



GRÉGORI GADEBOIS
Le Bouillon



JEAN-PIERRE DARROUSSIN
Le Directeur



ADELINE D'HERMY
de la Comédie-Française
La Maîtresse



NOÉMIE LVOVSKY
Mme. Bouillaquet



FRANÇOIS MOREL
Bludist



ILAN DEBRABANT
Nicolas



ANTON ALLUIN
Claire



OSCAR BOISSIÈRE
Alcède



LÉANDRE CASTELLANO-LEMOINE
Agnan



MALO CHANSON-DEMANGE
Rufus



SIMON FALU
Geoffroy



MALICK LAUGIER
Éudes



Nicolas 'mother and father love each other. Nicolas is lucky to have loving, caring parents



The gang of pals looking for the treasure



The small dog that terrorised the children



Bouillon the man with the whistle confronts the headmaster about the stealing of his whistles



Two teaching methods: a strict one (Mme Bouillaguet) and a gentle one (La Maîtresse)



Long live friendship!