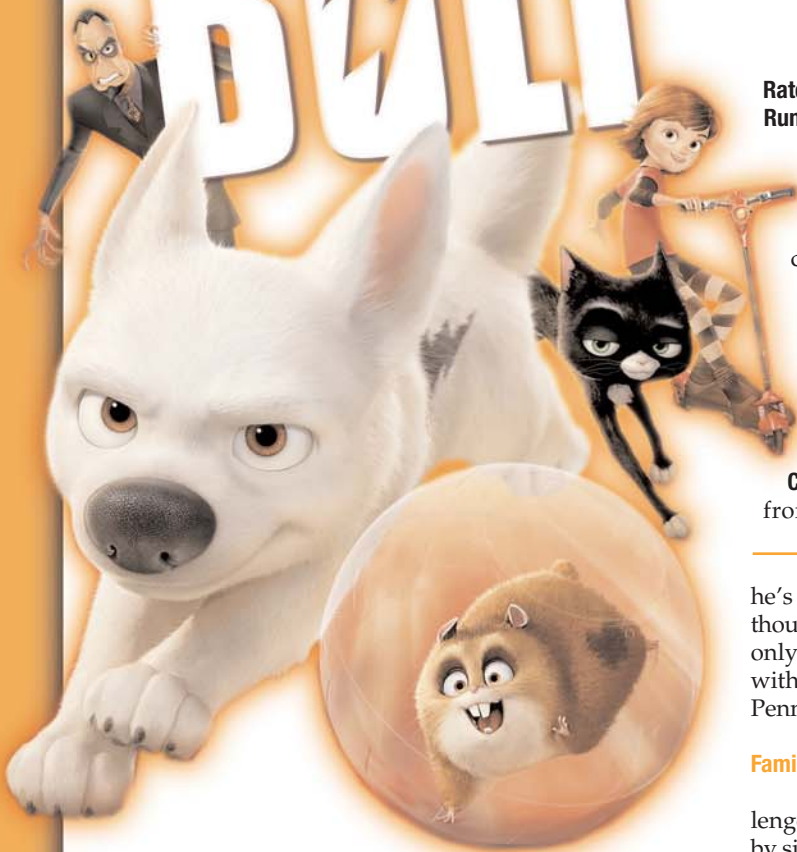


BOLT



Story Summary

Bolt is an indestructible superpup who daily protects his young owner, Penny, from nefarious baddie Dr. Calico. Of course, *that* life is merely a scripted TV series, though the dog who plays him doesn't know it. Bolt's Hollywood handlers take great pains to convince him it's all real ("If the dog believes it, the audience believes it"). Consequently, he thinks he has superpowers and perceives Calico as a real foe. So when Penny is "captured" in the season finale, Bolt breaks free from his studio trailer and runs to rescue her, accidentally knocking himself out, tumbling into a carton and getting shipped to New York City.

Our canine hero wakes to find himself on the wrong coast with his superpowers mysteriously on the fritz. Desperate for answers, the not-so-super pooch ties a sarcastic alley cat named Mittens to the other end of his leash, convinced she can lead him to Dr. Calico. This streetwise kitty thinks he's nuts. Against her wishes, she ends up joining Bolt on his cross-country journey, and somewhere in the Midwest they meet Rhino, a hamster in a plastic ball who turns out to be a deliriously obsessed *Bolt* fan. This fearless furball leaps (OK, rolls very quickly) at the chance to help his hero rescue Penny.

It's hard for Bolt to know exactly who he is, what with Mittens insisting he's just a dog, and the TV-loving Rhino a true believer in his superskills. As the trio head toward Hollywood, failures and frailties force Bolt to accept that

Rated: PG
Running Time: 96 mins.

Themes: Devotion to a friend, wrestling with personal identity, cooperation, the value of a loving family, the line between fantasy and reality, abandonment, making heroic choices even when feeling powerless

Cautions: Extended scenes from a TV show include

tense moments and amped-up action (bad guys crashing, vehicles exploding, etc.). Bolt and Penny are threatened by black-clad evildoers with claw-like, electrified gloves. Our heroes get trapped in a real, raging fire with little hope of escape. There's also cartoonish, slapstick violence. Questionable language is limited to "stupid," "gosh" and one college student telling another, "Move your butt."

he's an average canine. But he still loves Penny. And although Mittens urges him to forget about her, Bolt treks on, only to reach his destination and find he's been replaced with a look-alike. He's heartbroken. But then a fire traps Penny on the set, and it's the *real* Bolt to the rescue!

Family Activity

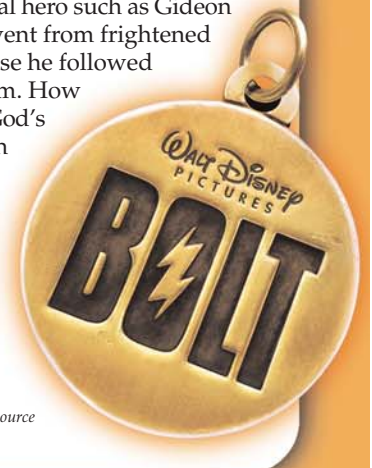
After seeing Mittens, Rhino and Bolt overcome challenges together, try tackling one with your child. Sit side by side with a sheet of paper between you. Try to create an airplane, hat or boat with the paper, using only two hands. The person on the right supplies the *right* hand, while the person on the left supplies the *left* hand. Afterward, discuss how patience, communication and cooperation (or the lack thereof) impacted your ability to get the job done. Relate this to daily challenges facing your family.

Talking Points

1. Rhino says people need heroes, "Someone who, no matter what the odds, will do what's right." Who are those people in your life? Talk about right and wrong, and how moral relativism seeks to undermine absolutes.

2. Discuss the story of a biblical hero such as Gideon (Judges 6 - 8) and how this man went from frightened pip-squeak to heroic leader because he followed through on what God asked of him. How can powerless people who follow God's commands be that kind of hero in today's world?

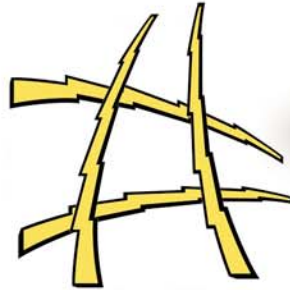
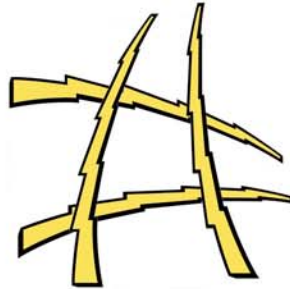
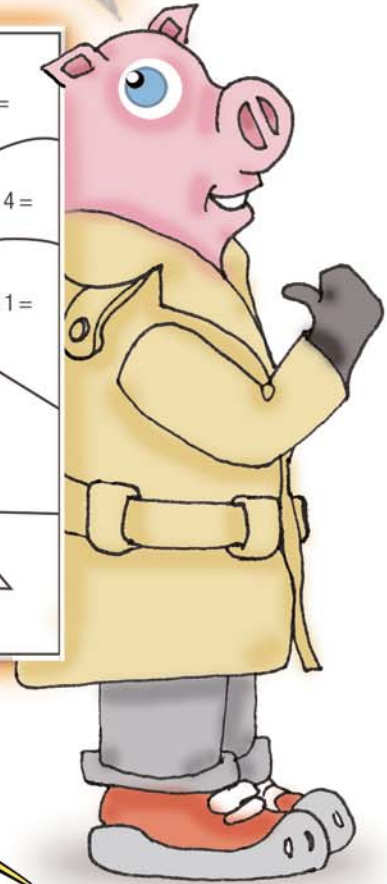
3. Read verses detailing God's views on love (Prov. 10:12, 17:17; John 15:13 and 1 John 3:18). What kinds of things do the characters in *Bolt* do to show that kind of love? Do you love your friends and family like that? —by Bob Hoose



DIVISION DILEMMA

If the answer is: 2 = Red; 3 = Green; 4 = Blue; 5 = Orange

I'm glad Bolt found Penny, but the buddy-hunt continues. Complete each division problem, then color in the sections using the key. And beware of the green-eyed man!

Find Their Favorites

1. Bolt's favorite food is closely associated with Penny's favorite sport
2. Mittens might *need* mittens during her favorite season
3. Rhino's favorite sport uses a ball that's *not* shaped like his plastic exercise ball
4. A true New Yorker, Mittens prefers her favorite meal hand-tossed
5. We set our clocks ahead one hour during Bolt's favorite season
6. Rhino's favorite snack usually comes with a dipping sauce
7. Bolt developed a love for this sport by watching Disney's *Air Bud*
8. Living in California, Penny enjoys her favorite season most of the year

Choose your *own* favorite from each list. Then see which character shares your preference by using the clues (left) to fill in the boxes. Remember, each favorite appears only once.

	FAVORITE SEASON: spring, summer, autumn, winter	FAVORITE FOOD: hot dogs, hamburgers, pizza, chicken nuggets	FAVORITE SPORT: soccer, basketball, football, baseball
Penny			
Bolt			
Mittens			
Rhino			