



Rated: G • **Running Time:** 78 minutes

Themes: Loving our enemies, forgiveness, humility vs. selfishness, seeing good in others, cooperation, friendship, leadership, patience, honoring those in authority, honesty, avoiding covetousness, importance of family

Cautions: There's name-calling, and Kuzco is often disre-

spectful of others. While not extreme or offensive, the wisecracks, cartoon violence and plot to murder the protagonist feel more like the stuff of Bugs Bunny than Walt Disney. Kronk talks to an angel and devil on his shoulders (the devil says to skip the path of righteousness and choose the "path that rocks"). A song refers to Kuzco as "the Alpha, the Omega," a title reserved for God (Rev. 1:8, 22:13).

Story Summary

Since the day he was born, Emperor Kuzco has been spoiled rotten. This rich young ruler has since blossomed into a full-blown narcissist—a superficial, sarcastic tyrant. The hungry and homeless get no sympathy from him or from his ruthless advisor, Yzma, a scheming diva eager to run the kingdom herself. When Yzma and her hunky flunky Kronk try to poison the bratty monarch and seize the throne, they accidentally turn Kuzco into a talking llama, then knock him unconscious so that Kronk can dispose of him. But the sack containing Kuzco ends up in the care of Pacha. He's a kind peasant whose village has been marked for demolition by the greedy emperor, who covets his hilltop real estate. Even as a talking llama, Kuzco is insufferable and unrepentant. He thinks Pacha kidnapped him in order to save his home.

In a huff, Kuzco enters the dangerous jungle in hopes of reaching his palace. At first Pacha is content to let the cranky pack animal be done in by his own arrogance, but soon reconsiders. He rescues the llama from jaguars, then offers to tag along for protection ... *if* Kuzco will spare his village. The emperor agrees. Even when Kuzco reneges on that promise, Pacha is still faithful to protect him, modeling uncommon loyalty and selflessness.

Kuzco and Pacha learn to trust each other and cooperate in order to evade Yzma and Kronk, who have discovered that Kuzco is alive and want to finish him off. The chase leads back to the palace, where a struggle over the antidote ends with llama-boy being returned to normal. Well, sort of. He's a changed man who has learned his lesson,

made new friends and finally discovered what it's like to be part of a family.

Family Activity

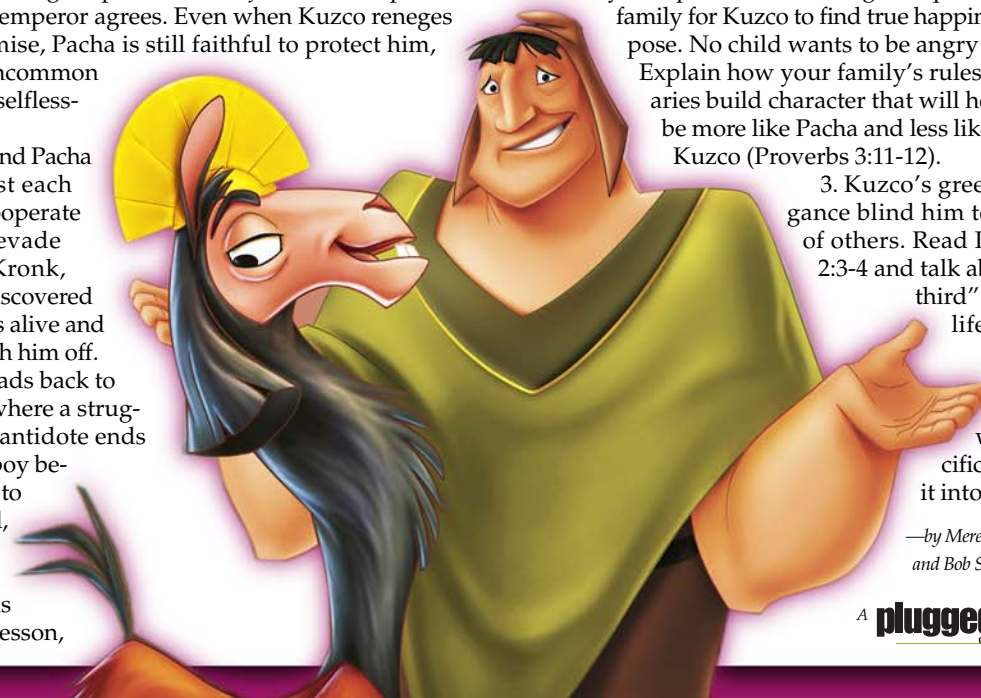
How much does your child know about llamas? It might be fun to do a little research together at your local library or online. *Llamaweb.com* is a good place to start. Create a list of questions you can check off as you hunt down the answers (What do they eat? What are their coats used for? etc.). If you have a llama farm or petting zoo in your area, pay a visit for a more hands-on experience.

Talking Points

1. Read Matthew 5:46 and Luke 6:27-31 before discussing ways Pacha treated Kuzco kindly even when the emperor was rotten to him. Ask, "How does God want us to treat people who are difficult or hostile toward us? Why?" Can you apply this to a real-life relationship?
2. We don't know what happened to Kuzco's parents, but we do know he grew up spoiled and selfish without any discipline. It took being "adopted" by Pacha's family for Kuzco to find true happiness and purpose. No child wants to be angry and lonely. Explain how your family's rules and boundaries build character that will help children be more like Pacha and less like the spoiled Kuzco (Proverbs 3:11-12).

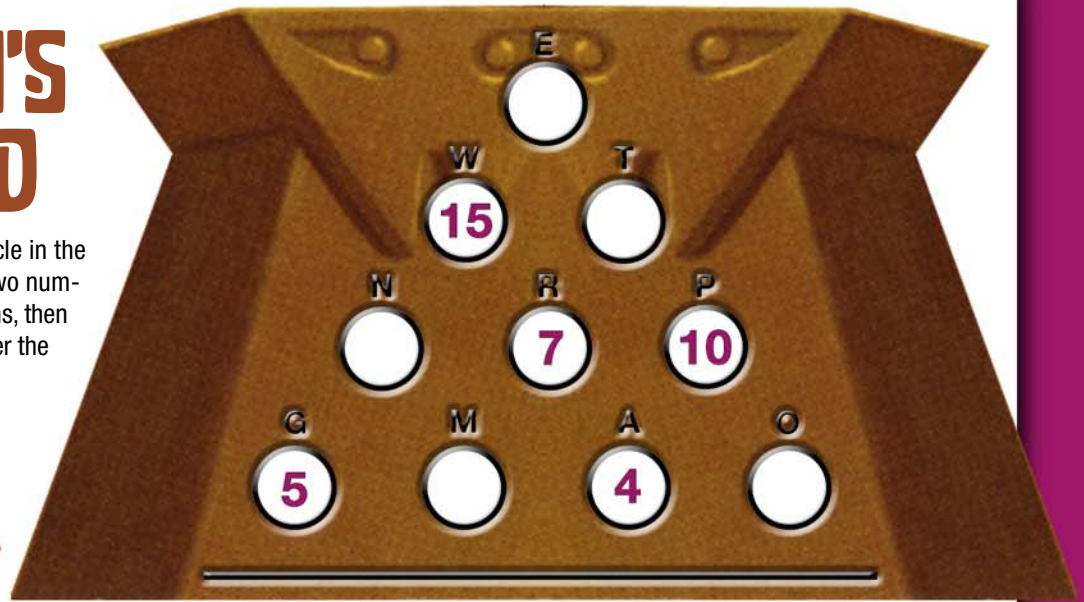
3. Kuzco's greed and arrogance blind him to the needs of others. Read Philippians 2:3-4 and talk about the "me third" approach to life (God first, others second, me third), as well as specific ways to put it into practice.

—by Meredith Whitmore and Bob Smithouser



PACHA'S PYRAMID

The number inside each circle in the pyramid is the sum of the two numbers beneath it. Find the sums, then use the secret code to answer the trivia question.



"The Emperor's New Groove, released in 2000, is the first animated Disney feature in history to show ..."

4	10	7	32	5	8	4	8	17	15	6	3	4	8	

Investigating this movie was fun! We learned about being unselfish. I also discovered that the voice of the old man was John Fiedler, the same actor who for more than 30 years voiced my favorite Disney character ... Piglet!

THE JUNIOR CHIPMUNK CHALLENGE

Fill in the missing vowels to find eight things Kuzco and Pacha encountered during their journey through the jungle.

1. BTS
2. JGRS
3. WTRFLL
4. SQRRL
5. CRCDLs
6. SCRPNs
7. SHKY BRDG
8. LLMS