# Joy

**Production** USA, 2015

Written by David O. Russell

**Based on** The story by Annie Mumolo & David O. Russell

**Directed by** David O. Russell

**Genre** Drama (True story)

**Characters** Joy (Jennifer Lawrence)

Rudy (Robert de Niro)

Trudy (Isabella Rossellini)

Neil Walker (Bradley Cooper)

## Scene 1 We're doing an invention

JOY has always had innovative ideas for improving everyday products but as a mother and with a tricky family to deal with nothing much has ever come of them. This time, though, it's going to be different. Her latest invention: a self-wringing mop.

**DVD** timings | Chapter: 08 | Start: 0.33:38 | Finish: 0.38:05 | Length: 04:27 |

Themes Having an idea

Inventions

**Vocabulary** to invest to wring (a mop)

to be complicated an opportunity

I don't get it

**Pre-activity** Two-minute brainstorm: *Business*.

Gist Questions 1) What has Joy invented?

- 2) How does she try to explain her idea?
- 3) What problems does she have?

Answers

- 1) A self-wringing mop
- 2) With visuals and then a prototype
- 3) It's difficult to explain her idea

#### Follow-up (1)

Task Come up with an idea for a new (or improved)

product. Put together an informal **presentation** to explain it and to get someone interested in investing in it. What is it? Why do people need it? What's it called? How does it work? Present.

# Scene 2 The mop of the future

JOY has a problem. She can't get her self-wringing mop into the shops so that people can buy it. What should she do now? How about the car parks in front of the shops?

**DVD** timings | Chapter: 10 | Start: 0.46:18 | Finish: 0.49:35 | Length: 03:17 |

**Themes** Being innovative

Selling

**Vocabulary** to break the law to be broke

to be bored to be disgusting

to be expensive to be brand new

**Pre-activity** Two-minute brainstorm: *Advertising*.

Gist Question What problems does Joy face?

Answer See below

- The shops won't put the mop in the **window**. Big companies pay them for space
- The mop is too expensive and too high quality. Cheaper products need to be replaced more often (= more profit)
- People aren't interested in buying in the car park
- She's **not allowed** to sell in the car park

**Follow-up (1)** Task Take your idea from **Scene 1** and come up with an innovative advertising campaign. How can you get people interested without spending huge amounts of money? Present.

Follow-up (2) Writing Write up your idea for an advertising campaign from Follow-up (1) as a proposal.

Proposal See Best Exotic Marigold Hotel (Scene 1/Follow-up 3).

**Follow-up (3)** Writing Write Joy an informal letter. What could she do in her situation? Any ideas? Give her some advice?

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### Scene 3 Give me a chance

JOY has a problem. She can't sell her mop in the shops or in the car parks in front of the shops. What now? What about the new TV shopping channel QVC (*Quality. Value. Convenience*) where fortunes can be made (and lost) in a few minutes airtime.

**DVD timings** | **Chapter**: 12 | **Start**: 0.54:27 | **Finish**: 0.58:42 | **Length**: 04:15 |

Themes Being yourself

**Products** 

Selling

Television

Vocabulary to acquire (buy) to manage/run (a company)

to be disrespectful to be cheap (poor quality)

a chart a retailer

**Pre-activity** List: What makes a good product?

Gist Question What are the mop's selling points?

Answer See below

• Joy cleans her own home. She's an expert in the field

• Her mop's **better** than other mops. She's tried them

• It's plastic which makes it light and easy to use

• It's 10 times more absorbent than any other mop

• Finishes the bathroom without wringing the mop

• USP: a **removable mop head** (washing machine)

Follow-up (1) Task Take your idea from Scene 1 and get QVC interested in selling it on their shopping channel. Main selling points? USP (unique selling point)? Put together a formal,

A BOMBERB presentation structure	
Bang!	Start in an interesting way
<b>O</b> pening	Welcome and introductions
Message	Say what you want to say
<b>B</b> ridge	Connect it the audience. Why relevant?
Examples	Give examples to back up your message
Recap	Go over the main points again
Bang!	Finish in an interesting way

structured **presentation** on your idea using the structure below.

#### Scene 4 This is me

A QVC salesman has done a disastrous job of generating interest in JOY's mop on the shopping channel: no sales. She demands another chance. This time though, she'll sell it herself.

**DVD** timings | Chapter: 16 | Start: 1.11:25 | Finish: 1.17:38 | Length: 06:13 |

**Themes** Being yourself

Products Selling

Television

Vocabulary to freeze (in panic) to design

to guarantee to be durable

to be lightweight to be nervous

to be bright to be disgusting

an outfit a spill

a (favourite) feature No way

**Pre-activity** Two-minute brainstorm: *Television*.

Gist Question Why does Joy succeed in selling her mop?

Answer Open

Follow-up (1) Task Sell your idea from Scene 1 on QVC. Put together a 2-minute demonstration of your idea (you will be told when

a 2-minute demonstration of your idea (you will be told when

your time is up). Present. Who in the class wants it?