13-year-old Ady is always getting into trouble. He lives in France with his dad who decides to send him to stay with his relatives in Burkino Faso for the summer, hoping that they can have a good influence on him. Ady has a major culture shock – there’s limited electricity to charge his phone, he’s expected to work, he hates it all. But things start to change, and Ady’s grandmother and local girl Yéli give him a helping hand to relax, trust others, and grow.

You’ll like this film if you liked
AFRICA UNITED (2010) Cert 12A
Dir Debs Gardner-Paterson

WALLAY begins with Ady writing to Yéli, and the rest of the film is in flashback. What difference would it make to how you watch the film without this?

What are are the roles of Uncle Amadou and Jean for Ady? What are the differences for him between them and the roles of his grandmother and Yéli?

Ady changes in the course of the film. Which are the key events when this happens?

WALLAY is filmed in a naturalistic, documentary style. How does this affect how we understand Ady and how we explore day and night-time Gaoua with him?

Siébou, the young car mechanic, thinks Ady looks ‘cool’. What are the differences between them – how do you think their daily lives compare?

Uncle Amadou sets out to take Ady through the steps of ‘initiation’ from boy to man. Does initiation also exist in Western cultures - if so, is it only for boys?

Write about it Bring your ideas together in a review and share it on the Into Film clubs’ website. You could include a summary of the story, mention other films that it’s similar to, describe what you particularly liked or disliked and give it your star rating https://www.intofilm.org/clubs

Extension Activities Ady and his family have different and changeable ideas of ‘home’ – where they were born, where their ancestors are from, where they are living now. Where is ‘home’ for you – is there only one, is there a place that your family sees in the same way as Ady’s dad/family? Write a short story about how your home came to be the way it is: remember to create a strong opening, establish the setting (time and place, protagonists and other main characters) and focus on an event that really starts the story before you lead up to your home now.