



# **SCHOOL PROGRAM 2023**

**LESSON PLAN**

# ABOUT US

HELLO, AND WELCOME TO REGENT PARK FILM FESTIVAL'S 2023 SCHOOL PROGRAM!

REGENT PARK FILM FESTIVAL (RPFF) IS A NON-PROFIT CULTURAL AND EDUCATIONAL MEDIA ARTS ORGANIZATION. WE'RE TORONTO'S LONGEST-RUNNING, FREE COMMUNITY FILM FESTIVAL, AND IS THE SOLE COMMUNITY FILM FESTIVAL IN CANADA'S LARGEST AND OLDEST PUBLIC HOUSING NEIGHBOURHOOD. RPFF IS A STAPLE IN THE COMMUNITY. IN ADDITION TO OUR ANNUAL FESTIVAL IN NOVEMBER, WE OFFER YEAR-ROUND SCREENINGS, OUR ANNUAL SCHOOL PROGRAM, WORKSHOPS AND COMMUNITY EVENTS AT NO COST.

RPFF IS DEDICATED TO SHOWCASING LOCAL AND INTERNATIONAL INDEPENDENT WORKS RELEVANT TO PEOPLE FROM ALL WALKS OF LIFE. THE KEY COMMUNITIES WE SERVE ARE BLACK, INDIGENOUS AND PEOPLE OF COLOUR (BIPOC) COMMUNITIES, PEOPLE WITH LOW-INCOME, PEOPLE WHO LIVE IN PUBLIC HOUSING, AND REGENT PARK RESIDENTS. THE FILMS WE PRESENT BREAK STEREOTYPES AND SHOW THAT NO ONE PLACE OR PERSON HAS JUST ONE STORY.

THIS YEAR WE ARE EXCITED TO PROVIDE A SELECTION OF FILMS FOR THE SCHOOL PROGRAM THAT ADDRESS THEMES OF MENTAL HEALTH, COMMUNITY BUILDING, CULTURAL DIVERSITY, AND MUCH MORE. WE HOPE THIS PROGRAM WILL PROVIDE AN ENTRYWAY INTO HAVING NUANCED CONVERSATIONS ABOUT BIG CONCEPTS AND IDEAS WITHIN THE LANGUAGE ARTS AND SOCIAL STUDIES CURRICULUM, AMONG OTHERS.

**NOTE: EDUCATORS ARE REQUIRED TO REVIEW ALL FILMS AND LESSON PLANS BEFORE SHARING THE CONTENT WITH THEIR STUDENTS. IT IS ALSO THE RESPONSIBILITY OF ALL EDUCATORS TO PROVIDE INFORMATION ABOUT THE CONTENT AND THEMES OF THE FILMS TO PARENTS, IF SO REQUIRED BY THEIR SCHOOL OR SCHOOL BOARD.**

# LESSON PLAN

## TO THOSE WHO ARE BRAVE GRADES 1-3 FILMS



### **Frida in the Sky, 6 mins**

Directed by Dani Sadun

Frida, an 8-year-old engineering prodigy, builds an airplane behind her mother's back to follow in her Abuela's legacy.



### **Girls in Chess, 4 mins**

Directed by Jenny Schweitzer Bell

Girls in Chess shines a spotlight on the gender gap in the world of competitive scholastic chess.



### **Charlie and the Hunt, 15 mins**

Directed by Jenn Shaw

Charlie is a CODA (Child of Deaf Adult) with a wonderful mom and an adorable dog. When her mom's bracelet goes missing, she sets off into the wild with her homemade map, where she uncovers breathtaking landscapes and priceless treasure.

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### **The Amazing Adventures of Awesome, 6 mins**

Directed by Allison Brownmoore

The Amazing Adventures of Awesome is a hand illustrated animated film about a young autistic girl at the heart of a quiet revolution.



### **Wash Day, 2 mins**

Directed by Jaida Salmon

Wash Day follows Zoey, a young black girl, as she spends the day washing, styling, and sometimes fighting with her hair.

**Content Note: Doing Black hair does not equal to being brave. Self-care, even when it's difficult, is brave.**

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## TO THOSE WHO ARE BRAVE GRADES 1-3 FILMS

**BRAVERY COMES IN ALL SHAPES AND SIZES. IT APPEARS WHEN WE LEAST EXPECT IT AND IT GUIDES US THROUGH THE MOST SIMPLE TASKS OF THE DAY. THIS PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS THE DIFFERENT WAYS PEOPLE SHOW THEIR BRAVERY WHEN DEALING WITH THEMES OF LOSS, FAMILY BONDS AND SELF-DISCOVERY.**

### DEFINITIONS AND TERMS

**CODA:** Children of D/deaf Adults, often known by the acronym CODA, is a hearing person who is raised by one or more deaf parents or legal guardians.

**Divorce:** When a couple ends their marriage by law. Sometimes this means they won't live together anymore but, if they have children, they are still a family and will take care of their children together.

**Autism:** Autism is a condition that involves the development of the brain and it affects people in different ways. Autism is usually associated with challenges that people have with communicating, socializing or behaving. All people with autism view the world uniquely and we have the opportunity to learn from their perspective.

Source: [https://www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/autism-spectrum-disordersgclid=CjwKCAjws9ipBhB1EiwAccEi1Lt7VsBTVcP8Cz4Uxt2Jq7hWwP8nuimCeibn9yZgtY-9uvqYdPhAXxoCGRcQAvD\\_BwE](https://www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/autism-spectrum-disordersgclid=CjwKCAjws9ipBhB1EiwAccEi1Lt7VsBTVcP8Cz4Uxt2Jq7hWwP8nuimCeibn9yZgtY-9uvqYdPhAXxoCGRcQAvD_BwE)

**Community:** A group of people living or working together in the same area or have something in common, whether that be related to identity, beliefs, and more. People in communities might go to the same schools, shop in the same stores, enjoy doing the same things, or come from similar backgrounds.

**Identity:** Who you are as a person. This is everything from how you look, where you're from, who you're friends with, your hobbies, etc.

- Example: Your name, your fingerprint, your ethnicity, what you enjoy doing, are all parts of your identity.

Further reading for teachers: <https://www.parentmap.com/article/identity-difference-race-how-teach>

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## TO THOSE WHO ARE BRAVE GRADES 1-3 FILMS

### DISCUSSION AND ACTIVITY PROMPTS

- There are different types of courage (e.g., physical, emotional, social, moral). Discuss as a class different ways that we can be courageous.
- Think of a time you or someone else wanted to avoid something that was scary or uncomfortable? What happened? What gave you courage?
- Think of a time when a friend needed your help. How did you help them get through their problem?
  - Further thinking: How do you like to be helped through a problem?
- What does taking care of your community look like? What are some things you can do to make sure people in your community feel included?
- Create an identity map! Draw a circle with your name in the center of the page. Create other circles coming out from the center circle. Label these circles with parts of your identity (e.g., favourite food, hobbies, skills, strengths, weaknesses) and fill them out!
  - Example: Under “Skills”: fast runner, good at making friends etc.
- Create a class courage jar. Every time a student does something courageous or if they see someone in the class being courageous, they can write down their courageous act on a slip of paper and add it to the jar. These slips can be read at the end of the week or month to remind students how courageous and resilient they are.