



SCHOOL PROGRAM

Grades 4-6 Lesson Plan

by

Regent Park Film Festival

The Regent Park Film Festival's School Program provides media-literacy programming to students in Grades 1-8 across the GTA. Our programming creates a dialogue surrounding social issues affecting Toronto's diverse student population.

Program Description

What does it mean to be "strong"? Featuring characters navigating the dominant society's attitudes towards immigration, race and gender, these narratives show us the complicated journey to staying true to who you are despite your circumstances. This program provides an understanding beyond the physical definition through tales of resistance, independence and confidence.

Definitions To Consider

Privilege - Advantages a person or community have due to race, gender, sexuality, wealth or ability.

Immigrant - A person who moves to a new country permanently.

Cultural Assimilation - The pressure on a minority group to adopt the cultural practices of a majority group. This often erases or diminishes the cultural practices and traditions of the minority group.

Stereotypes - Over-generalized ideas about a specific group of people, often which are harmful and negative.

Microaggression - A form of prejudice towards a marginalized person or group in the form of subtle or causal statements. Whether done intentionally or not, microaggressions are a reinforcement of negative stereotypes.

BEFORE THE FESTIVAL

1. As a group, discuss how one may exhibit strength. Consider:
 - a. Do you have to be physically strong to have strength?
 - b. What are other non-physical ways of showing strength?

AT THE FESTIVAL - BE A FILM CRITIC!

Print out the Be A Film Critic sheet attached, and bring it to the festival to review the films you see! Rate each film from 1-5 stars.

AFTER THE FESTIVAL

1. Reflecting on the Films

FILM: Haru's New Year

Do you think Haru is a character that displays strength? Why or why not? Use examples from the film.

FILM: Pick

Alliyah is subjected to many microaggressions from various people in the film. Name an example from the film and interpret the negative connotation or stereotype behind the statement. Then, rewrite the microaggression as a positive/neutral statement the character could have used instead.

FILM: Iron Hands

Despite being dismissive of her at first, why do you think the Groundskeeper decided to help the main character train for the competition? Consider the Program Description for your response.

FILM: Tree #3

Despite being a self-confident individual, Itai was determined to be "more American". Has there ever been a time you tried to change yourself to fit in? What was the result?

2. Class Exercise: What Makes You Strong?

Consider the earlier questions regarding strength and how the youth in these films display it. Now think about yourself - what makes you strong or gives you strength? This could be your intelligence, patience, physical strength etc...

In a class circle, write each of these qualities on separate pieces of paper and place them in the middle of the circle. Next, one-by-one, take turns giving a piece of paper from the middle to your classmates that you feel best applies to them. Do this until you run out of pieces of paper, then share with the class what you received. Are you surprised what you received and why or why not?

FILMS

FILM: TREE #3



Synopsis: After he's been cast (again!) as a background tree in his annual middle school play, an ambitious and imaginative immigrant boy leads a revolution on stage that his intolerant drama teacher will never forget.

Themes: Immigration, Discrimination, Education, Friendship, Family

FILM: HARU'S NEW YEAR



Synopsis: New year, new country, new school. Haru has a lot to adjust to in Canada let alone figuring out how to make new friends while still missing the ones she left behind in Japan. When Haru learns about her weird classmate Frances who doesn't often appear at school, she wonders more about this mysterious person.

Themes: Immigration, Assimilation, Friendship

FILM: PICK



Synopsis: A young girl wears her afro to school and must deal with the unexpected consequences.

Themes: Racism, Identity, Assimilation, Societal Expectations

FILM: IRON HANDS



Synopsis: As a 12-year-old girl prepares for her final test trying out for the traditionally all-boys Chinese youth Olympic weightlifting team, she makes an unlikely connection with the gym's reclusive groundskeeper.

Themes: Gender Norms, Sports, Mentorship, Perseverance



17TH ANNUAL REGENT PARK FILM FESTIVAL
SCHOOL PROGRAM GRADES 4-6

BE A FILM CRITIC!

5 ☆ = HIGHEST



TREE #3



HARU'S NEW YEAR



PICK



IRON HANDS

