



FilmEd Classroom
Films to Engage Students in
Meaningful Conversation

FILM GUIDE

ACCENTS

GRADES 6-8

ROBERTINO ZAMBRANO | AUSTRALIA

ANIMATION | POETRY | 3:00 MINUTES | 2019

Subtheme: Latinx culture, BIPOC Experience, Intersectionality

PART IV

BEHIND THE SCENES

LEARN ABOUT THE FILMMAKER & FILMMAKING PROCESS

The short film **ACCENTS** is part of a TED-Ed series called "[There's a Poem for That](#)." For this particular piece, poet Denice Frohman was paired with award-winning animator Robertino Zambrano.

CONSIDER THE FILMMAKER'S STYLE & TECHNIQUES

Pose one or two of the questions below before showing the film once again, and let students take notes while they watch.

- How would you describe the colors and the visual style of the film? (You can also use the images above to prompt responses.) How do the colors make you feel?
- What do you hear in the film? How would you describe the sounds and music? (Have students close their eyes as they listen.) How do the sounds make you feel? What do they remind you of?
- Although the poet isn't singing, the reading captures the music of her mother's accent. How would you describe the way Denice Frohman delivers the poem (think about the rhythm, tone, and crescendos)?
- How does the filmmaker capture the rhythm, syntax, and mixing of languages featured in the poem?

- If you were to make a film that represents your identity, what colors or sounds would you use?
What song or music would you choose that connects with your identity?

CONSIDER THE FILMMAKER'S UNDERLYING MESSAGE

Help students understand that Robertino Zambrano made many decisions in order to convey the poem to us, the viewers.

- Why do you think Robertino Zambrano chose to use **animation** instead of **live action** in this film?
- How might the film be different if it was told as a **fictional** story with actors?
- How might the film be different with different colors, or sounds?

ABOUT THE FILMMAKER & POET

ROBERTINO ZAMBRANO

Robertino Zambrano directed and designed the look of the film **ACCENTS**. He has worked as a filmmaker in many places including Sydney, Australia, NYC, and Silicon Valley, California. Zambrano enjoys trying out new technologies and experimenting with new ways of making art and films.

DENICE FROHMAN

Denice Frohman wrote the poem **ACCENTS** about her own mother. She is also the voice you hear reading the poem in the film. In addition to writing poetry, she is a performer and an educator from New York City. She now lives in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

HEAR FROM THE POET

Let students know that while the poet might have had a message or idea in mind, we are all welcome to interpret the poem in our own way.

Share this [video interview](#) with Denice Frohman or share the excerpt below and invite students to share responses.

“I wanted to take something that’s deemed unworthy or uncelebrated and to turn it on its head and to take it back...to celebrate it and throw it a parade. I wanted to write my mother out of a shame that didn’t belong to her. I wanted to write her into a power that she possesses. I wanted to subvert the hierarchies of language that puts English at the top, and every other language at the bottom.”

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