



FilmEd Classroom
Films to Engage Students in
Meaningful Conversation

FILM GUIDE

GRAB MY HAND: A LETTER TO MY DAD

GRADES 6-8

Camrus Johnson & Pedro Piccinini | United States

ANIMATED SHORT FILM | CREATIVE NONFICTION | 5:08 MINUTES | 2019

Subtheme: Empathy, Connecting, Grief and Loss

PART I

FIRST LOOK

INTRODUCE THE FILM

- We're going to watch **GRAB MY HAND: A LETTER TO MY DAD** by Camrus Johnson & Pedro Piccinini.
- The film is about 5 minutes long. It's important that we are quiet while the film is playing. In a short film, every image and sound is important to the story being told.
- **Note:** Consider whether your class would benefit from a content warning in advance of the film.

ACTION!

Watch the film together and gather initial reactions using open-ended questions.

START THE CONVERSATION

Follow the film screening with a moment of pause for the group to gather their thoughts. Ask the open-ended questions below and record students' answers. Have students support their observations with evidence by asking, "What did you see that makes you say that?"

- What did you notice about this film?
- What did the film make you feel or think about?
- What moments in this short film stood out for you? Why?
- Did the film give you any new ideas?
- Did anything about this film surprise you? Why?
- What are some words you might use to describe this film?

TEACHING REMOTELY?

- You can watch the film as a group by sharing your screen, and selecting the "optimize for video sharing" option. Make sure all participants (including yourself) are muted while the film plays.
- Consider using breakout rooms for small group discussions.
- Try using Mentimeter on Zoom to collect responses.

classroom.nycicff.org

© 2020 New York Int'l Children's Film Festival