



**FilmEd Classroom**  
**Films to Engage Students in  
Meaningful Conversation**

FILM GUIDE

# GRAB MY HAND: A LETTER TO MY DAD

## GRADES 6-8

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

Subtheme: Empathy, Connecting, Grief and Loss

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PART II

## A CLOSER LOOK

MOVE THE CONVERSATION FURTHER, INSPIRING INTERPRETATIONS AND NEW IDEAS

Consider posing a question before screening the film again and have students take notes while viewing the film this time.

### FOCUS ON CHARACTER & IDENTITY

Ask the questions below, taking a pause to give students time to think about their answers. Encourage them to support their answers with evidence from the film by asking, "What makes you say that?"

- Based on what we see in the film, what inferences can we make about the characters? About the narrator?
- What challenges do the characters in the film face? How do the characters grow or change throughout the story? Is there anything that we can learn from the characters in this story?

- Why do you think that the filmmakers might have chosen to illustrate the characters as superheroes? How does your idea of a superhero compare with the characters in the film? Revisit responses from pre-viewing activity.
- Share the following quote from the film: *They're two superheroes that don't have it all figured out. But they'll never let you know that. Because whatever you need, even if they don't know how to get it; they'll find a way to help. That's what superheroes do.* How does this fit with your description of a superhero?
- Do you know any real-life superheroes? How would you describe them? What would their superpowers be?
- What do you think the narrator means when they say *You are who you surround yourself with?*
  
- In the film, two friends say *Gate Check* to each other every day. Is there something that you say or do daily with someone you really care about?
- Ask students to consider:
  - What are some ways that the characters in the film communicate non-verbally, using only body language? How can you tell what the character's mood is?
  - Does our body language always accurately reflect what emotions we are feeling? How could becoming more aware of your body language help you connect with others? How could it help you in your interactions with others?

If you have been recording students' answers, revisit the responses as a group, and ask students to share any final thoughts or ideas.

### Zoom In

- Take a closer look at **still images** by pausing the film and asking students what they notice.