



FilmEd Classroom
Films to Engage Students in
Meaningful Conversation

FILM GUIDE

WELCOME TO MY LIFE

GRADES 6-8

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ANIMATED SHORT FILM | FICTION | 8:52 MINUTES | 2015

Subtheme: Difference, Inclusion, Bullying, Bias, Self-Identity

PART III

THE BIGGER CONVERSATION

EXPAND CONVERSATIONS AND CONNECT TO SUBTHEMES

MONSTERS & STEREOTYPES

- Create a T-chart. On one side of the chart, have students list words that they might use to describe a monster. Since monsters are fictional, there are no wrong answers.
- On the other side of the chart, list words you might use to describe T-Kesh.
- Compare the two lists to see how T-Kesh is similar or different from what you might expect from a monster.
- What **assumptions** might Ian have made about T-Kesh or about monsters in general that might have caused him to treat T-Kesh the way he did?
- Ask students to help define the word **stereotype**. Explain that when we make assumptions about an entire group of people, those assumptions are referred to as **stereotypes**. When **stereotypes** influence our behavior or attitudes, we may find it

difficult to make fair judgements about someone or something. This influence on judgement is called a bias.

FAMILY AND IDENTITY

Our families can be an important part of our identities. In small groups or pairs have students revisit and reflect on the following:

- T-Kesh says: *"It seems like Japanese monsters are pretty common in cinema, but I don't know if regular people would know that that's, like, a normal thing..."* What do you think T-Kesh means by this?
- T-Kesh uses the phrases *regular people* and *normal thing*. What can you say about words like 'normal' or 'regular' and how they are used and interpreted by different people?
- Do you think these are useful terms?
- T-Kesh's mom says *"...in today's world there are all kinds of people and people are becoming more tolerant of...different kinds of parenting styles and different family configurations...accepting a monster just kind of goes along with that."* What do you think T-Kesh's mother means by this? Does this remind you of anything that you've heard or experienced in real life?

Emphasize that answers to these questions, like the other conversations you are having, are non-judgemental and provide students with an opportunity to consider their own experiences—and the importance of reflecting on their own actions and thoughts.