



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

FILM GUIDE

THE MAGIC OF CHESS

GRADES K-2

Jenny Schweitzer Bell | United States

LIVE ACTION | NONFICTION | DOCUMENTARY SHORT FILM | 4:44 MINUTES | 2019

Subtheme: Identity, Inclusion, Perseverance

PART I

FIRST LOOK

INTRODUCE THE FILM

- We're going to watch THE MAGIC OF CHESS by Jenny Schweitzer Bell.
- The film is 5 minutes long. Since it is so short, it's important that we are quiet and don't talk while the film is playing.
- Unlike the previous films we watched, THE MAGIC OF CHESS is a documentary which means that it is nonfiction. We're going to see and hear from some real children about their interests and their experiences.
- We will watch the film again later in the lesson.

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 see? What did you notice about this film?
- How would you describe this film in just a few words? Tell me more about that.
- What was your favorite part of this film? Why?
- In what ways was this film similar to the other films we've watched? In what ways was it different?
- Be sure to point out that not all films or tv shows with real people are **nonfiction**.
- Was there anything in the film that you didn't understand or that you might want to know more about?

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.
- Leading this lesson on Zoom? Use Breakout Rooms to have smaller group discussions.

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