



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 III

THE BIGGER CONVERSATION

EXPAND CONVERSATIONS AND CONNECT TO SUBTHEMES

The Message of Chess

- What are some lessons you learned from the kids in the film that you think can use in your own life?
- The kids in the film talk about strategies that help them deal with being nervous or getting upset when they don't win (i.e., taking deep breaths). What are some strategies you use to help you when you feel nervous?
- Have you ever lost or won a competition? How did that make you feel?
- In the film, the students share the benefits of learning how to play chess. Is there a game you play or an activity you participate in that helps you with other things in your life? What skills have you learned from it?

Diversity in Chess

- Learn more about **Tanitoluwa Emmanuel Adewumi**, a Nigerian-born chess player who lives in New York City. Tanitoluwa won the 2019 *K-3 New York State Chess Championship* at the age of eight and is featured in **THE MAGIC OF CHESS**. Use language that celebrates Tani's dedication, skills acquisitions, and "deep thinking," as he puts it.
- Read [this article](#) about his story or [watch a video](#) of Tani featured on CBS News.
- Read [*My Name is Tani and I Believe in Miracles*](#), a book about this young chess player's journey to becoming a champion.
- What can chess teach us about the gender gap? Share stories like that of [Lisa Lane's](#) with your students and discuss how girls and women still face challenges with equality in chess.

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