



FilmEd Classroom  
Films to Engage Students in  
Meaningful Conversation

FILM GUIDE

# 02 WASH DAY

## GRADES K-2

JAIDA SALMON | CANADA

ANIMATED SHORT FILM | FICTION | 2:17 MINUTES | 2019

Subtheme: Self-Identity, Girls' POV

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PART III

# THE BIGGER CONVERSATION

EXPAND CONVERSATIONS AND CONNECT TO SUBTHEMES

## TALK IDENTITY

- List and discuss words that help describe a person's identity such as: gender, race, and ability. Support your students in defining any words with which they may be unfamiliar. Have a dialogue about their identities and what makes them who they are as individuals.
- Engage in a Popcorn share to create a list of words that identify Zoey in **WASH DAY**. Advise against making assumptions or judging people based on a single characteristic. Together create an [Identity Chart \[PDF\]](#) for Zoey. Students can follow up by making their own Identity Charts.

## READ BOOKS

Read books that celebrate differences and diverse perspectives to launch a conversation about the ways hair and identity overlap.

- [My Hair is a Garden – by Cozbi A. Cabrera \(read aloud video\)](#)
- [I am Enough – by Grace Byers \(read aloud video\)](#)
- [Me and My Afro – by 10-year-old debut author, Aiden M. Taylor who celebrates letting the world know that he loves his Afro.](#)
- [Stella’s Stellar Hair – by Yesenia Montes](#)
- [Bad Hair/Pelo Malo – a book with an anti-bullying message that reinforces respect for individualism by Sulma Arzu-Brown.](#)

## OTHER WORKS OF ART

View the work of other artists whose works explore the theme of hair and identity.

- Artist Lorna Simpson (b. 1960) has created work that explores the history of African-American hairstyles and conventions of beauty. Share the artist’s [Collage Series](#) with students.
- [Firelei Báez](#) (b. 1989) is an artist of Haitian and Dominican ancestry. Her work has often explored her identity as an Afro-Latina through the incorporation of nature, fantasy, and Caribbean folklore. Some of Baez’s works have been inspired by her own transition to natural hair.

## FURTHER READING

The topic of race or difference may come up while discussing this film. Embrace this as a teachable moment. Find resources below and see the [Additional Resources](#) page for more about discussing this and other themes in the film with your class.

- [A Brief History of Hair Politics and Discrimination](#)
- [The Connection Between Hair and Identity in Black Culture](#)

- [\*Identity at the Root of Black Hairstyles\*](#)
  - [\*Let's Talk\*](#) [PDF] – Teaching Tolerance's guide to discussing race, racism and other complex topics with students.
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