



# GET *the* BIG PICTURE

BUILDING CHARACTER, ONE SCENE AT A TIME

## AMELIA'S CLOSET

DISCUSSION GUIDE | GRADES 6-9



### ABOUT AMELIA'S CLOSET



17:20 MINUTES



Written & Directed by Halima Lucas

Amelia's Closet is a short film about 11-year old Amelia, who is heavily bullied at school and often left feeling powerless. Amelia steals from the kids who bully her and shamefully hides the items in her closet to reclaim a sense of power. She is forced to confront the hidden items in her closet and find a true sense of empowerment.

**GOAL** To develop critical thinking skills and self-awareness in learners, through analysis of the characters and challenging situations in Amelia's Closet.

### THEMES

Bullying, Equity, Empowerment, Self-Esteem, Integrity

### SUBJECTS

English & Language Arts, Advisory/Counseling

### TEXAS ESSENTIAL KNOWLEDGE SKILLS (TEKS)

English Language Arts and Reading, §110.22., §110.23., §110.24

English Language Arts and Reading, English I, §110.31

## PRE-SCREENING ACTIVITIES

### ESSENTIAL QUESTION

How Do Our Relationships with Others Affect Us?



Select 2-3 learners to share their opinion about the question and a personal experience.

## WHERE DO YOU STAND?

This activity requires your learners to show their position on a series of statements by standing in a designated corner of the room that's assigned to one of three opinion stances: Agree, Disagree, or Not Sure.

**Step 1.** Choose a color card to represent each opinion to place in a corner.

Example: Agree - Green, Disagree - Red & Not Sure - Blue

**Step 2.** Share a statement with your learners and have them walk to the respective corners, matching their opinions.

**Step 3.** Depending on time, choose 1 or 2 learners from each stance, to explain their choice. Follow up with a question or allow another learner to comment, allowing room for a deeper engagement of the perspective.

### STATEMENTS

- A. I believe everything I read on social media
- B. I like fro-yo over ice cream
- C. Laughing at other people is fun
- D. I prefer to watch shows on my phone over the TV
- E. I try to always follow the rules
- F. If someone treats me badly it's okay to treat them the same

## WATCH & ANALYZE



Show Amelia's Closet.



Now, view the clips below from Amelia's Closet that touch on the themes of equity, bullying and self-esteem that will take the class into a deeper discussion. After viewing each clip, discuss the questions with your learners.



"BROKEN MISSION"



7:05

Mrs. Myers tells Amelia that she should have used more glue and made her project with stronger materials to prevent it from being destroyed. **Is that a fair statement?**

**What personal circumstances would prevent Amelia from using more glue and stronger materials?**

**Have you or anyone you know experienced a situation like Amelia's in this scene? How were things handled or resolved?**

B

**"DAD TALK"****10:24**

Amelia confesses to her dad that her classmates bully her. **How did her dad respond? Why do you believe she kept this from him so long?**

Amelia's dad tells her that a sharp mind is the best weapon. **What does he mean by that statement?**

**Have you or anyone you know heard a message that inspired you to make a change?**

C

**"TEST SCORE"****14:35**

**What evidence do we have that Amelia is empowered in this scene?**

**Why do you think Amelia decided to stand up to the bully in this scene?**

**How did Amelia gain control and manage to smile after dealing with so much frustration?**

**Have you or anyone you know found the courage to stand up in a challenging situation? Where did the inspiration come from?**

## POST SCREENING ACTIVITY



**Finally, it's your learners' turn to lead a discussion about Amelia's Closet. Ask each learner to Think, Pair and Share their opinions on each prompt you provide.**

Q:

Do you identify with any characters from Amelia's Closet?

Q:

What situations in the story can you personally relate to?

Q:

Do you feel as if Mrs. Myers supported Amelia? Have you ever not felt supported by someone at your school?

Q:

What did you learn from this story that you wish others knew?

Q:

What was Amelia's conflict? Was it resolved? Talk about a conflict you've experienced and what happened.