

# TEACHER GUIDE: RUKSANA FROM INDIA

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## Summary of Ruksana’s Film Chapter

Ruksana and her family are “pavement dwellers” living on the streets of Kolkata, India. Ruksana’s parents have sacrificed everything, moving from their village to the big city, so their daughters could go to school. Ruksana’s life is filled with danger, but she escapes into her artwork and draws strength from her parents’ resolve. “That’s when I learned to never give up.” (Ruksana)

**Note to Teachers:** Ruksana’s chapter focuses on the issues surrounding poverty and the impact of positive family support. Students are encouraged to examine the negative aspects of Ruksana’s situation, and to explore the positive influences in her life.

## Curriculum and Resources Related to Ruksana’s Chapter

- Ruksana’s film chapter
- Introductory Lesson (below)
- Film Viewing Guide (below)
- Country Fact Sheet: India (found in the Resources section)
- Relevant Issue Fact Sheet:
  - Family Support and Influence
- Project-Based Lessons (all are applicable to Ruksana’s chapter)
  - Consumer Impact: How Our \$ Can Make a Difference
  - Display the Numbers: Creating Public Art
  - Supporting a Revolution
  - United Nations \$100 Million Grant
  - What’s Working: The Impact of NGOs
  - What is Freedom?
- Take Action Guide (found in the Resources section)
- See Additional Resources Guide for other resources, including relevant videos (found in the Resources section).

## Introducing the Film

Students will begin to learn about the challenges faced by girls living in developing countries, and they’ll discover how some are overcoming the barriers and obtaining an education.

## Time Needed

One class period; 50 minutes

## Materials

- Ruksana’s film chapter
- A copy of the Film Viewing Guide (below) for each student
- Map/globe

## Common Core State Standards

- CCSS.ELA-Literacy.SL.7.1 Engage effectively in a range of collaborative discussions (one-on-one, in groups, and teacher-led) with diverse partners on grade 7 topics, texts, and issues, building on others’ ideas and expressing their own clearly
- CCSS.ELA-Literacy.SL.7.2 Analyze the main ideas and supporting details presented in diverse media and formats (e.g., visually, quantitatively, orally) and explain how the ideas clarify a topic, text, or issue under study.
- CCSS.ELA-Literacy.SL.8.1 Engage effectively in a range of collaborative discussions (one-on-one, in groups, and teacher-led) with diverse partners on grade 8 topics, texts, and issues, building on others’ ideas and expressing their own clearly.
- CCSS.ELA-Literacy.SL.8.2 Analyze the purpose of information presented in diverse media and formats (e.g., visually, quantitatively, orally) and evaluate the motives (e.g., social, commercial, political) behind its presentation.

## Ideas for Introducing Ruksana’s Story to Students

- Locate India on a map or globe.
- Ask students to take out a sheet of paper and draw 10 lines. On the first five lines, have students briefly write how others have helped support their goals. For example, does someone give you a ride to sports practice? Does someone help you with your homework or tutor you after school? Is there someone who listens to you talk when you have a problem? On the other five lines, ask students to write five ways in which they have supported someone else's goals.

### Watching the Film

- Using the Viewing Guide below, ask students to answer the Before You Watch questions prior to watching the film. (Hint: There are approximately 15.2 million people in Kolkata.)
- After viewing the film, students should complete the Reflection section. Students can answer these questions on their own, or you may opt for a class discussion around them.
- Encourage students to answer the final question, "What information are you interested in learning more about?" Consider student answers when choosing which Project-Based Lesson(s) you will use.

### For an update on Ruksana

Go to [www.girlrising.com/meet-the-girls/ruksana-in-india/](http://www.girlrising.com/meet-the-girls/ruksana-in-india/)

# FILM VIEWING GUIDE: RUKSANA FROM INDIA

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## Before You Watch

Before you meet Ruksana and learn about her experience, take a few minutes to answer the following questions:

1. What is the population of Kolkata, India? 1.3 million, 6 million, or 15.2 million? What is the population of your city?
2. How would you describe a homeless person? What do you think a homeless person does during the day?
3. Who helps you in your life? Who and what make it possible for you to focus on your education?

## Reflection

Now that you have had the opportunity to learn about Ruksana, answer the following questions:

1. How do you feel about the determination of Ruksana's parents to stay in the city so their daughters could earn an education? How important do you think it is for Ruksana to stay in school?
2. What do you think about the solution that Ruksana's dad found for her "doodling?" Do you think this will help her concentrate in school?
3. Why do you feel it was important for the film's director to share Ruksana's story?
4. How have your views changed? What opinions have remained the same? What new information had the greatest impact on you?
5. What are you interested in learning more about?