



TEACHER GUIDE: RUKSANA FROM INDIA

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.”

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 (below)
- 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 Supplemental Materials section)
- Additional Resources Guide (Found in the Supplemental Materials 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.9-10.1: Initiate and participate effectively in a range of collaborative discussions (one-on-one, in groups, and teacher-led) with diverse partners on grades 9–10 topics, texts, and issues, building on others’ ideas and expressing their own clearly and persuasively.
- CCSS.ELA-Literacy.SL.11-12.1 Initiate and participate effectively in a range of collaborative discussions (one-on-one, in groups, and teacher-led) with diverse partners on grades 11–12 topics, texts, and issues, building on others’ ideas and expressing their own clearly and persuasively.

Ideas for Introducing Ruksana’s Story to Students

- Locate India on a map or globe.
- Give each student 10 sticky notes. On five of the sticky notes, 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? Is there someone who listens to you talk when you have a problem? On the other five sticky notes, 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: Approximately 15.2 million people live in Kolkata, according to 2017 estimates from the UN World Urbanization Prospects)
- Encourage students to use the space provided in the While You Are Watching section for any notes, comments, or questions that they have as they watch the film.
- 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 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 <https://vimeo.com/260837302>



FILM VIEWING GUIDE: **RUKSANA FROM INDIA**

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 over 15 million? What is the population of your city?
2. How would you describe a homeless person? How do you think a homeless person spends their day?
3. Why is education important to you? Who and what make it possible for you to focus on your education?

While You Are Watching: Record your thoughts, impressions, and questions as you watch Ruksana's story.

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?” How do you think her art helps her in her life?

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 new information had the greatest impact on you?

5. What are you interested in learning more about?