

TEACHER GUIDE: MARIAMA FROM SIERRA LEONE

Summary of Mariama’s Film Chapter

Mariama, a teenager from war-torn Sierra Leone, is the voice of the future. Not only is she the first in her family to be educated, she has her own radio show, big dreams, and boundless imagination. “Now there’s nothing to stop me. Nothing in the world. Nothing in the universe.” (Mariama)

Note to Teachers: Mariama’s chapter focuses on the impact that cultural influences, as well as family support, can have on a girl. Students are encouraged to examine the negative aspects of Mariama’s situation, and to explore the positive influences in her life.

Curriculum and Resources Related to Mariama’s Chapter

- Mariama’s film chapter
- Introductory Lesson (below)
- Film Viewing Guide (below)
- Country Fact Sheet: Sierra Leone (found in the Resources section)
- Relevant Issue Fact Sheets:
 - Cultural Influences
 - Family Support and Influence
- Project-Based Lessons (all are applicable to Mariama’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

- Mariama’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 Mariama’s Story to Students

- Locate Sierra Leone on a map or globe.
- In small groups ask students to write a short paragraph or create a graphic showing one way to resolve a conflict, and then to share their solution with the class.

Watching the Film

- Using the Viewing Guide below, ask students to answer the Before You Watch questions prior to watching 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 Mariama

Go to www.girlrising.com/meet-the-girls/mariama-in-sierra-leone/

FILM VIEWING GUIDE: MARIAMA FROM SIERRA LEONE

Before You Watch

Before you meet Mariama and learn about her experience, take a few minutes to respond to the following:

1. Use ten words to describe your view of girls living in Sierra Leone.
2. Have you ever had a job? What was it? What would your ideal job be?
3. How does your community view girls who are well educated? Why is a community's view of education important?

Reflection

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

1. How has Mariama's story influenced your view of girls living in Sierra Leone? How is Mariama's life similar to yours? In what ways is it different?
2. How did the community influence Mariama's father? Why was it important for Mariama to take the time to understand how her father might be feeling? How did doing so help her situation?
3. Why do you feel it was important for the film's director to share Mariama's experience?
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?