

Student Activity: Using film to discuss migration and cultural integration

There are many films and television shows that involve immigrants and issues of cultural integration. The following is a list of films you or your students may have seen:

<i>An American Tail</i>	<i>Le Grande Voyage</i>
<i>Babel</i>	<i>Mississippi Masala</i>
<i>Bend It Like Beckham</i>	<i>My Big Fat Greek Wedding</i>
<i>Bread and Roses</i>	<i>My Son, the Fanatic</i>
<i>Crash</i>	<i>Real Women Have Curves</i>
<i>Gangs of New York</i>	<i>Strictly Ballroom</i>
<i>The Godfather</i>	<i>Tortilla Soup</i>
<i>The House of Sand and Fog</i>	<i>Ugly Betty</i>
<i>The Joy Luck Club</i>	<i>The Wedding Banquet</i>
<i>In America</i>	<i>West Side Story</i>

This list is by no means complete, and not all of the titles listed may be appropriate viewing for all students.

Activity suggestions: Ask students to view one of these films, or to view films in small groups. Have students consider the following questions about these films. *You may also choose to distribute these questions as a handout—see Student Worksheet 2.*

Each of these films features an immigrant family. Where did the family come from?

Can you tell when they migrated?

Can you tell why they migrated?

What do each of these films say about immigrants and subsequent generations?

What issues do the younger generations in these films face?

What are the concerns of the older generations?

How do they resolve their differences—or do they?

Engage your class in discussion about their answers. What other issues can your students identify in these films that are related to migration and cultural integration?

STUDENT WORKSHEET 2

Name: _____ Date: _____ Class: _____

Assignment: Watch one of the films that your teacher suggests, and answer the following questions:

Title of film: _____

Who are the main characters in this film? List their names and their relationship to each other:

In a few sentences, summarize the plot of the film:

This film features an immigrant family. Who are the members of the family?

Where did the family come from?

Can you tell when they emigrated from their home country? If so, when?

Can you tell why they migrated? If so, what was the reason?

What difficulties do the older and younger generations in the film experience in trying to relate to each other?

What issues do the younger generations in the film face?

What issues do the older generations in the film face?

How do they resolve their differences—or do they?

On the back, describe any other issues from the film you can identify that are related to migration and cultural integration.