

## **The Help**

Synopsis: *The Help* is set in the early 1960s in Jackson, Mississippi. And told primarily from the first-person perspectives of three women: Aibileen Clark, Minny Jackson, and Eugenia "Skeeter" Phelan. Aibileen is an African American maid who takes care of white children and cleans their home.

Lesson Learned: Racism can be overcome by some and not in others.

## **42 – The Jackie Robinson Story**

Synopsis: In 1946, Jackie Robinson is a Negro League baseball player who never takes racism lying down. Branch Rickey is a Major League team executive with a bold idea. To that end, Rickey recruits Robinson to break the unspoken color line as the first modern African American Major League player.

Lesson Learned: Racism can be addressed in big leagues and things can change.

## **Remember the Titans**

Synopsis: *Remember the Titans* tells the inspirational true story about the struggles and victories of a newly-integrated high school football team in 1971 Alexandria, Virginia. As such, the film reflects the divisive nature of the times -- the film begins with a near-riot scene between African-Americans and whites on the street separated by the police as bottles and windows break. The racial tensions of the town -- segregation in restaurants, racial slurs, fist fights in the high school -- are shown to highlight the backdrop in which the Titans must learn to get along and play together as a team. The movie includes racist comments and situations and some locker room insults.

Lesson Learned: Racism can be overcome if you work with a team.

## **Boy in the Striped Pajamas**

Synopsis: The boys hatch a plan for Bruno to dress up in pajamas and help Shmuel find his dad before he leaves Auschwitz on Saturday. The next day, Friday, Bruno goes to the fence. He changes into his striped pajamas, leaves his things on his side and crawls under the fence.

Lesson Learned: The horror of anti-Semitism during WWII.

## **The Life & Times of Hank Greenberg**

Synopsis: "The Life and Times of Hank Greenberg" is a humorous and nostalgic documentary about an extraordinary baseball player who transcended religious prejudice to become an American icon. Detroit Tiger Hammerin Hank's accomplishments during the Golden Age of Baseball rivaled those of Babe Ruth and Lou Gehrig.

Lesson Learned: Anti-Semitism in America

## **Mean Girls**

Synopsis: Teenage Cady Heron was educated in Africa by her scientist parents. When her family moves to the suburbs of Illinois, Cady finally gets to experience public school and gets a quick primer on the cruel, tacit laws of popularity that divide her fellow students into tightly knit cliques. She unwittingly finds herself in the good graces of an elite group of cool students dubbed "the Plastics," but Cady soon realizes how her shallow group of new friends earned this nickname.

Lesson Learned: Cliques can hurt

## **Philadelphia**

Synopsis: Fearing it would compromise his career, lawyer Andrew Beckett hides his homosexuality and HIV status at a powerful Philadelphia law firm. But his secret is exposed when a colleague spots the illness's telltale lesions. Fired shortly afterwards, Beckett resolves to sue for discrimination, teaming up with Joe Miller, the only lawyer willing to help. In court, they face one of his ex-employer's top litigators.

Lesson Learned: Be true to who you are and prejudices can happen anywhere.

## **Harvey Milk Story**

Synopsis: Milk is a 2008 American biographical film based on the life of gay rights activist and politician Harvey Milk, who was the first openly gay person to be elected to public office in California, as a member of the San Francisco Board of Supervisors.

Lesson Learned: Homophobia exists on many levels.

## **Billy Elliott**

Synopsis: When 11 year-old Billy Elliott (Jamie Bell) trades boxing school for ballet lessons, his father, a hardworking miner from Northern England is horrified. He despises the idea of his son running around in toe shoes. However, when Billy wins an audition for the Royal Ballet School, his father has a change of heart.

Lesson Learned: Don't judge a book by its cover.

## **Fat Boy Chronicles**

Synopsis: Overweight teenager, Jimmy Winterpock, transfers to a new school where he is mercilessly bullied by classmates. After he starts keeping a journal that gives him an opportunity to get in touch with his feelings, he resolves to lose weight and win the girl of his dreams.

Lesson Learned: Look within for your strength and for others, do not judge another until you have walked in their shoes.

## **Bully**

Synopsis: This film explores the subject of school bullying from a personal angle. This eye opening documentary tracks the stories of five different families whose children are struggling to defend themselves because of their differences.

Lesson Learned: With the help of family and friends, we too can overcome the difficult obstacles that come with bullying at our schools.

## **Avengers**

Synopsis: The Avengers, Earth's mightiest heroes, work to stop nefarious plots set forth by villains. The Avengers are ready to save the day.

Lesson Learned: It sometimes it really does take a village worth of superheroes to make something happen.

## **Cyberbully**

Synopsis: Teenager Taylor Hillridge finds herself a target of bullying by fellow students through a popular social website in this movie. After the abuse makes Taylor afraid to face her classmates, suffering from anxiety and depression, her mother gets involved.

Lesson Learned: If you don't have anything nice to say, don't say it at all. And if you don't have anything nice to see on the Internet, shut off the computer

## **Sticks and Stones**

Synopsis: High school students portray many different at risk behaviors: cyberbullying, substance use, homophobia, suicidality

Lesson Learned: Sometimes what is said online can have dire consequences.

## **The War**

Synopsis: Vietnam War vet Stephen Simmons deals with an entirely different set of conflicts back home in Mississippi, where he copes with post-traumatic stress disorder and unemployment, and helps his son, Stuart, stand up to a group of bullies.

Lesson Learned: Not only can children learn how to lean on their parents when they need them the most, but parents can do the same, too.

## **Walkout**

Synopsis: A film based on a true story of the 1968 East L.A. walkouts. It addresses Hispanic prejudice.

Lesson learned: Prejudice can be seen within the Hispanic culture.