

Film List for Human Relations in a Multicultural Society

June, 2012

Atchison, D. (Director). (2006). *Akeela and the Bee*. [Motion Picture]. Santa Monica, CA: Lionsgate Films.

Eleven-year-old Akeelah Anderson's life is not easy: her father is dead, her mom ignores her, her brother runs with the local gangbangers. She's smart, but her environment threatens to strangle her aspirations. Akeelah participates in a spelling bee to avoid detention for her many absences. Much to her surprise and embarrassment, she wins. Her principal asks her to seek coaching from an English professor named Dr. Larabee for the more prestigious regional bee. As the possibility of making it all the way to the Scripps National Spelling Bee looms, Akeelah could provide her community with someone to rally around and be proud of -- but only if she can overcome her insecurities and her distracting home life and a field of more experienced and privileged fellow spellers. Written by Shannon Patrick Sullivan shannon@mun.ca

Avildsen, J. G. (Director). (1992). *The Power of One*. [Motion Picture]. Los Angeles, CA: Warner Brothers.

Based on the book by Bryce Courtenay, *The Power of One* is a story of a young English boy named Peekay and his passion for changing the world. Growing up, Peekay suffered as the only English boy in an Afrikaans school. Soon orphaned, he was placed in the care of a German national named Professor von Vollenstein (a.k.a. "Doc"), a friend of his grandfather. Doc develops Peekay's piano talent and Peekay becomes "assistant gardener" in Doc's cactus garden. It is not long after WWII begins that Doc is placed in prison for failure to register as a foreigner with the English government. Peekay makes frequent visits and meets Geel Piet, an inmate, who teaches him to box. Geel Piet spreads the myth of the Rainmaker, the one who brings peace to all of the tribes. Peekay is cast in the light of this myth. After the war, Peekay attends an English private school where he continues to box. He meets a young girl, Maria, with whom he falls in love. Her father, Professor Daniel Marais, is a leader of the Nationalist Party of South Africa. The two fight to teach the natives English as Peekay's popularity grows via the myth. Peekay loses focus until he sees the success of his language school among the tribes. He and Guideon Duma continue the work in hopes of building a better future for Africa

Avnet, J. (Director). (1991). *Fried Green Tomatoes*. [Motion Picture]. Los Angeles, CA: Universal Pictures.

Folksy and fresh, endearing and affecting, *Fried Green Tomatoes* is the now-classic

story of two women in the 1980s: of gray-headed Mrs. Ninny Threadgoode, who is telling her life story to Evelyn Couch, who is in a sad middle age slump. Mrs. Threadgoode tells about two women, the irrepressible, daredevil tomboy, Iddie, and her friend, Ruth. Back in the thirties, Iddie and Ruth ran a little cafe in Whistle Stop, Alabama. Their cafe offered good barbecue and good coffee and all kinds of love and laughter. And as the past unfolds, the present will never be quite the same again...

Boyle, D. & Tandan, L. (Directors). (2008). *Slumdog Millionaire*. London: Celador Films. [Motion Picture].

Slumdog Millionaire is about Jamal, an eighteen year old orphan from Mumbai, who is one question away from winning 20 million rupees on India's "Who Wants to be a Millionaire" game show. Overnight, he is arrested and accused for cheating on the game show. Jamal takes the film viewers back through his life to explain all the places he has been and everything he has learned. He has answered each question correctly by life with his brother Salim, his love Latika, and his life on the street which has taught him the common sense he needs to know. Not only does this film show the culture in India, but more importantly, it shows the culture of an orphan. An orphan may experience a much more difficult lifestyle than a child with a home. Instead of authority, in this case the police, acknowledging how far the eighteen year old boy has come, the police try to take him down. Being threatened by the fact that an eighteen year old boy will be winning the game show, people of more authority try to belittle him and make sure Jamal doesn't win.

Cameron, J. (Director). (2009). *Avatar*. [Motion Picture]. Los Angeles, CA: Twentieth Century Fox.

An epic science fiction film set in the mid-22nd century, when humans are mining a precious mineral called unobtainium on Pandora, a lush habitable moon in the Alpha Centauri star system. The expansion of the mining colony threatens the continued existence of a local tribe of Na'vi—a humanoid species indigenous to Pandora. The film's title refers to the genetically engineered Na'vi-human hybrid bodies used by a team of researchers to interact with the natives of Pandora. The plots and relationships illustrate power, oppression, greed, prejudice, racism, able-ism, and more.

Chadha, G. (Director). (2003). *Bend It Like Beckham*. [Motion Picture]. Los Angeles, CA: Kintop Pictures.

Bend it like Beckham (also known as "Sognando Beckham" and "Kick It Like Beckham") is about football, race, gender and culture. Jesminder (Jess) is an 18-year-old British Indian girl from a family with traditional ideas. Jess loves football and her favorite football star, David Beckham. But her parents are unhappy that their daughter runs around in shorts chasing a ball. They want her to study to become a lawyer, learn to cook Indian food and marry a nice Indian boy. Will Jess follow her dream of becoming a professional footballer? [Keep in mind that what is considered 'soccer' in the United States is called 'football' throughout the world.]

Chechik, J. (Director). (1993). Benny and Joon. [Motion Picture]. Los Angeles, CA: Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer.

Joon has lived her life with people seeing her as weak or different, due to a cognitive disability. After the loss of her parents in a car accident, she develops a depression disorder. Joon lives with her brother, Ben. Sam (a friend of Ben's cousin) loses a bet during a poker game and comes to live with them. Ben decides that Sam will keep the house clean, cook, and take care of Joon. Sam and Joon strike up a friendship when they find that they are not that different from each other, because they both are regarded as "different" by other members of society.

Eastwood, C. (Director). (2008). Gran Torino. [Motion Picture]. Los Angeles, CA: Warner Brothers.

Gran Torino is about Walt Kowalski, a widower who befriends a Hmong family. At the beginning of the movie, Walt is very biased towards the family. He has held onto his prejudices despite the changes in his Michigan neighborhood and the world around him. The grumpy, tough-minded, unhappy Korean War veteran keeps his prize possession (a 1972 Gran Torino) in mint condition. When his neighbor, a young Hmong teenager under pressure from his gang member cousin, tries to steal his Gran Torino, the widower sets out to reform the youth. Drawn against his will into the life of the Hmong family, Walt begins taking steps to protect them from the neighborhood gangs.

Eastwood, C. (Director). (2009). Invictus. [Motion Picture]. Los Angeles, CA: Warner Brothers.

The film tells the inspiring true story of how Nelson Mandela joined forces with the captain of South Africa's rugby team to help unite their country. Newly-elected President Mandela knows his nation remains racially and economically divided in the wake of apartheid. Believing he can bring his people together through the universal language of sport, Mandela rallies South Africa's rugby team as they make their historic run to the 1995 Rugby World Cup Championship match.

Eyre, M. (Director). (1993). Amos and Andrew. [Motion Picture]. Beverly Hills, CA: Castle Rock Entertainment.

A comedy about a small-time crook and a successful author. The author (who is Black) buys a house on an exclusive New England resort island. A local law enforcement officer (who is White) mistakes him for a thief and nearly kills him in a bungled attempt to "protect" the estate. The town's police chief (who is also White) attempts to cover up the embarrassing details of the event by planting a convicted criminal in the house to take the rap. The ensuing comedy challenges ideas of prejudice, power, and racism.

George, T. (Director). (2004). *Hotel Rwanda*. (2004). [Motion Picture]. Santa Monica, CA: LionsGate Films.

Paul, house manager of the luxurious Des Mille Collines in Rwanda, is a Hutu married to a Tutsi woman. Early in this story, Paul is in denial; afraid of getting involved and ignorant enough to believe that peace between the Hutus and the Tutsies is possible. After all, he and his wife are different, yet dedicated to each other and to their children. Tension mounts when his neighbors are raided and beaten simply because of their ethnicities. When his own wife and children are threatened and the community is forced out of their homes, Paul realizes that the conflict is escalating. Tutsi refugees turn to him (a Hutu) for help. Paul brings his family and many others to the hotel. His actions save more than 1,200 Rwandan refugees. *Hotel Rwanda* is about the fight; an ongoing battle for love, heritage, and freedom and the dedication to make peace with others.

Guggenheim, C. (Director). (1995). *The Shadow of hate: a history of intolerance*. [Video/DVD]. Montgomery, Ala.: Southern Poverty Law Center.

The Shadow of Hate chronicles the haunting legacy of prejudice in America over the last 300 years, from the persecution of the Quakers in colonial New England to the ethnic tensions that divide our towns and cities today. Historical photos, archival film footage, and the voices of eyewitnesses bring to life events such as the Wounded Knee Massacre, the lynching of Jewish businessman Leo Frank, and the internment of Japanese-Americans during World War II. By telling the stories of those who have struggled against persecution, "The Shadow of Hate" illuminates the dark corners of American history. This is part of the 'Teaching Tolerance' educational project of the Southern Poverty Law Center focused primarily at combating prejudice in school children. Resources include video, DVD, and teacher's guide.

Haggis, P. (Director). (2005). *Crash*. [Motion Picture]. Los Angeles, CA: DEJ Productions.

Race and gender issues lead a group of individuals in Los Angeles to collide. Rick is an L.A. attorney whose wife doesn't hide her hatred of people of different race than hers. This becomes clear once her car is stolen by two African American men. An African American couple is pulled over by Officer Ryan, who conducts an inappropriate search on the woman in the car. A Middle Eastern shop owner is threatened due to the 9/11 attacks, so he purchases a gun for safety. Also, Daniel, the locksmith and father, is faced with untrusting customers because of his color. In connection to class, this movie directly shows the true obstacles people of different backgrounds face each day. Being white in the United States, you do not have to deal with discrimination as other races do. Every character is treated differently in the film based on the color of their skin and their cultural background. Also, every character treats others in a different way based on the differences they have. A district attorney and his wife get car-jacked by an oddly sociological pair of young black men; a rich black T.V. director and his wife get pulled over by a white racist cop and his reluctant partner; a detective and his Latina partner investigate a white cop who shot a black

cop. Interlocking stories reach up and down class lines a dozen Los Angeles residents--black, white, Latino, Asian, and Persian

Hancock, J. L. (Director). (2009). *The Blind Side*. Netter, G. (Producer). [Motion Picture]. Los Angeles, CA: Alcon Entertainment.

This is the fact-based story of Michael Oher, once a homeless and traumatized boy who later became an All-American football player and first-round NFL draft pick with the help of a caring woman (Leigh Anne) and her family. The family is first in denial and ignorant of any problem for homeless or African American students. The children attend a private school with little diversity. Leigh Anne and her family invite Michael to live with them. When the family finds he has left early, after his first night's stay, they quickly check to see if he stole anything. Eventually, the Touhy family discovers a lot they have in common with Michael and come to appreciate even their differences, including his special abilities at football. The Touhys even include Michael in their family Christmas card and stick up for him as the other wealthy people try to bring him down and place stereotypes upon him.

Hardwicke, C. (Director). (2008). *Twilight*. [Motion Picture]. Santa Monica, CA: Summit Entertainment Studio.

Bella Swan moves from Phoenix, AZ to a small town in Washington. As the new girl in town, she quickly finds herself the center of attention and catches the eye of the reclusive Edward Cullen. Edward and his family are not like others and tend to stick to themselves. Bella's and Edward's attraction soon overwhelms them, and Bella finds herself caught up in the world of a vampire family and their quest to blend in with the rest of the world. Worlds collide when a new coven of vampires comes to town and begins killing humans. The film presents themes of racism, classism, ableism, cultural competency, cross-cultural partnerships, tolerance, and more.

Hudson, R. & Houston, B. (Directors). (2000). *A Place at the Table: Struggles for equality in America*. [Video/DVD]. Montgomery, AL: Southern Poverty Law Center.

Inspiring and true, *A Place at the Table* chronicles the lives of American freedom fighters whose stories are little-known, but whose efforts have paved the way for equality and justice in the face of extreme prejudice. Unsung heroes and their brave deeds, such as house slave Elizabeth Freeman's momentous court battle winning her freedom, suffragette Sara Bard Field's cross-country journey for women's rights, and Nisqually Indian Billy Frank Jr.'s fight for Native American land rights, toppled barriers in education, voting, employment, housing, and other areas of discrimination. A history of American champions of justice, *A Place at the Table* is filled with men and women who, when told by society to "stay in their place," insisted that "their place" was at the American table as full-fledged participants in democracy. Description written by Southern Poverty Law Center.

Jolie, A. (Director). (2011). *In the Land of Blood and Honey*. [Motion Picture]. Santa Monica, CA: GK Pictures.

During the Bosnian War, Danijel, a soldier fighting for the Serbs, re-encounters Ajla, a Bosnian who is now a captive in his camp he oversees. Their once-promising connection became ambiguous as their motives changed.

LaGravenese, R. (Director). (2007). *Freedom Writers*. [Motion Picture]. Los Angeles, CA: Paramount Pictures.

Erin Gruwell, a new, excited school teacher, arrives at Woodrow Wilson High School in Long Beach, California. She is challenged with a classroom filled with students who are “at risk” and are not at all eager to learn. Erin also has troubles with the head of her department, who refuses to let her teach high school students with books in case they get damaged or lost, and instead tells her to focus on teaching them obedience. Erin gives them something they never had from a teacher before – respect. For the first time, the teens experience a hope that maybe they might show the world that their lives matter and they have something to say.

Learning Seed. (2007). *Them and Us: Prejudice and self-understanding*. [Video/DVD] Lake Zurich, IL: Learning Seed.

Nice, reasonable people like us are “we,” and strangers with weird beliefs are “they.” This is how many of us see the world. But every “us” is somebody else’s “them.” Those who hold hidden assumptions or stereotypes consider them a recognition of reality, not a prejudice. A common reaction is “you might be prejudiced,” but “I’m a realist.” What is prejudice for “them” is merely a recognition of “the way things are” for “us.” *Them and Us* explores common thinking habits to show how they can easily lead to hidden assumptions, bias, and prejudice. Stereotyping and prejudice are not limited to the ignorant or closed-minded. Its beginnings lie in the almost automatic need to group people into categories and to identify clear “us” and “them” groups. The program assumes it is better to identify and challenge your own bias rather than declare yourself bias-free. We each have some hidden assumptions about some people types -- age, gender, race, ethnicity, size, nationality, or lifestyle. Not about specific minority groups, it rather explores the mental processes we use to deal with other cultures, with people who do not fit our category of “us.” Summary by Learning Seed.

Lee, S. (Director). (1997). *Four Little Girls*. [Motion Picture]. HBO Home Video.

When a bomb tears through the basement of a black Baptist church on September 15, 1963, it takes the lives of four young girls. This racially-motivated crime sparked the nation’s outrage and helped fuel the civil rights movement sweeping across the country.

Levinson, B. (Director). (1988). *Rain Man*. [Motion Picture]. Los Angeles, CA: United Artists.

Charlie is a young and struggling Los Angeles businessman who sells expensive cars for a living. One day he receives word that his father, a man with whom he had not spoken in years, had died back in Cincinnati, Ohio. Charlie returns to his childhood home to take care of his father's property, only to find out that virtually all of his dad's \$3,000,000 estate was left to an unnamed person in a 'trust.' After doing some investigating, Charlie learns that the trust was for Raymond, a person who lived in a home for the mentally disabled near his childhood house. While exploring this institution with his girlfriend, Susanna, Charlie makes a nearly unbelievable discovery: The person to whom the trust was given is an autistic man named Raymond Babbitt, who is Charlie's older brother. Charlie never knew he had a brother, for his parents had never told him. In his confusion, anger and greed, Charlie decides to take Raymond back with him. Charlie started out unaware of his brother's life and the differences they had. He soon learned that they had many differences with their lifestyle and how they communicate. Throughout the trip Charlie started to accept his brother, and he grew a bond with his brother. In turn, Raymond also began to understand and accept the relationship with Charley.

Muccino, G. (Director). (2006). *The Pursuit of Happyness*. [Motion Picture]. West Hollywood, CA: Relativity Media.

This is based on a true story of a single father who went from living on the streets to owning his own brokerage firm. Chris, a newly single salesman who has custody of his son, finds providing for them is a struggle in the increasingly unstable economy.

Mulligan, R. (Director). (1962). *To Kill a Mockingbird*. [Motion Picture]. Orlando, FL: Universal Studios.

This movie is based on the Harper Lee novel of the same name about Scout, Jem and their father, Atticus Finch, an attorney in a small southern town. It is both a coming-of-age story about the children as well as a hard-hitting drama. Atticus defends a black man who is on trial for the rape of a white woman. The story is told from the children's perspective. Through the youngsters, the viewer finds that racism is a learned attitude or feeling. They also realize that there is no Boogeyman down the street and that their father is capable of doing a lot more than they think. The character Atticus Finch is a pillar of nobility, social conscience, and, unusual in 1930's America, a single parent.

Pressman, M. (Director). (2003). *And the Children Shall Lead*. [Video/DVD]. Lake City, UT: All Things Family.

It is 1964, in the segregated town of Catesville, Mississippi, and Rachel who is black and Jenny who is white are best friends, caught up in the firestorm surrounding black voter registration. The adults, both black and white, afraid of the inevitable changes that are surely coming, hang onto the old ways of dealing with their differences. This drama, set in Catesville, Mississippi during the height of the civil rights movement,

looks at the effects of political change on children -- who can often prove wiser than their elders. Despite segregation, 12-year-old Rachel has maintained close ties with several white children. Then, civil rights activists arrive in Catesville determined to assure equal rights for blacks. As tension and distrust between the races grow, Rachel and her friends decide they must help the town unite and overcome prejudice...When a group of civil rights activists arrive in a sleepy Mississippi town and bring the citizens' simmering racial tensions to the surface, a 12-year-old girl named Rachel joins the fight against segregation and leads the adults to better racial understanding

Prince-Bythewood, G. (Director). (2008). *The Secret Life of Bees*. [Motion Picture]. Los Angeles, CA: Fox Search Light Pictures.

Based on the book by S. M. Kidd. Set in South Carolina in 1964, this is the tale of Lily Owens a 14-year-old girl who is haunted by the memory of her late mother. To escape her lonely life and troubled relationship with her father, Lily flees with Rosaleen, her caregiver and only friend, to a South Carolina town that holds the secret to her mother's past. Taken in by the intelligent and independent Boatwright sisters, Lily finds solace in their mesmerizing world of beekeeping. Summary written by Fox Searchlight Pictures.

Puenzo, L. (Director). (2007). *XXY*. [Motion Picture]. Piriápolis, Maldonado, Uruguay: Historias Cinematograficas Cinemania.

This Argentinian film is about Alex, an intersex teenager who has been raised as a girl. When she was born, her parents did not do surgery to correct her external genitalia to resemble a girl. Alex was raised with ambiguous looking external genitalia. Alex recently stopped taking medications to suppress masculine features. Unbeknown to Alex, her mother has invited a surgeon to meet Alex and remove her protruding male genitalia. Alex explores her sexuality while having to deal with physical and mental harassment from her peers. Ultimately, Alex does not want to take any medications or choose either gender. Alex says during the movie that she doesn't know if she is attracted to males or females. Since Alex's gender was not clear, she could have chosen one or the other and lived as that gender. Alex got into a physical fight with her best friend and her friend's father didn't want Alex to be around his son anymore. Alex's friend also told other kids at school which led to more troubles. *XXY*, is a statement on the micro-cultures of both gender and sexuality.

Riggen, P. (Director). (2008). *La Misma Luna / Under the Same Moon*. [Motion Picture]. Los Angeles, CA: Creando Films.

La Misma Luna (also known as *Under the Same Moon*) follows Carlitos, a nine-year-old in Mexico. Years before, his mother, Rosario, managed to illegally cross the border and find work in Los Angeles. Rosario would work hard so she could send money back to Mexico for her mother to take care of her son. After Carlitos' grandmother dies, he travels to the United States to find his mother.

Ruffo, A. G. (Director). (2010). *A Windigo Tale*. [Motion Picture]. Los Angeles, CA: Warner Brothers.

Two stories are woven together, one profoundly affecting the other. A Native Canadian grandfather drives north accompanied by his grandson, a youth-at-risk, who comes to learn about the dark secrets of his family and community. In an isolated village, an estranged mother and daughter must reunite to exorcise the voracious Windigo spirit (according to Native tradition, a giant stone creature who is taller than the tallest tree, can change his shape at will, and feeds on the people). Taking its inspiration from Ojibway spirituality and from the history of the residential school system, where generations of children were forcibly taken from their families and aggressively assimilated into Euro-Canadian society. Written by Anonymous

Sajbel, M. O. (Director). (2006). *The Ultimate Gift*. Los Angeles, CA: Twentieth Century Fox. [Motion Picture].

Based on the book by Jim Stovall, an extremely wise and wealthy grandfather gives his shallow, spoiled grandson the ultimate inheritance. Jason Stevens learns there's more to life than money. Instead of the expected cash windfall, "Red" Stevens has prepared twelve gifts to be given after his death to his grandson. The series of gifts, leading up to the ultimate gift, take Jason on a challenging journey of personal growth and self-discovery. Jason starts out unaware of other lifestyles and socioeconomic classes until his grandfather dies. Through the tasks his grandfather assigns him in the will, he learns to work and meets people of all sorts of lifestyles from a single parent, farmers, missionaries, and tribes in Africa. In the end, he learns many lessons and that his class does not mean that he is superior to anyone.

Sanders, C., and DeBlois, D. (Directors). (2009). *How to Train Your Dragon*. [Motion Picture]. Los Angeles, CA: Paramount Pictures.

How to Train Your Dragon is a film about the Vikings, who despise the dragons because of their brutal attacks on the villages. After Hiccup gets to know the dragons, he tries to tell the village about how they can help. This film illustrates how cultures can help each other by coming together.

Schumacher, J. (Director). (1997). *A Time to Kill*. [Motion Picture] Los Angeles, CA: Warner Brothers.

John Grisham's bestseller, *A Time to Kill*, is adapted into a feature film about a murder trial that brings a small Mississippi town's racial tensions to the flashpoint. In the middle of activist marches, Klan terror, media clamor and riots, a young attorney fights a courtroom battle for justice. Carl Lee Hailey was hard at work at a factory in a small Mississippi town when he learned that his ten-year-old daughter, Tonya, had been brutally raped by two racist thugs on a drunken spree. Jake Brigance, a struggling young liberal attorney—fresh out of law school—is eager but naïve about the ways of the old South. He takes on Hailey's case as lead defense attorney after Hailey shoots his daughter's assaulters in a passionate act of rage and retribution. Ellen Roark, an

ambitious and razor-sharp young law student at "Ole Miss" (the University of Mississippi), wants to see justice done but does not understand the risk she is taking. Hailey's trial sparks a resurgence of outwardly racist acts by members of the Ku Klux Klan who are anxious to keep their cause alive and desperate to reclaim their dying "glory days." The state's attorney, Rufus Buckley, is a seasoned prosecutor and has a strong case against Hailey. If they are to win the case, Jake and Carl Lee must find ways to transcend differences in race and class in order to work together for justice. Carl Lee is as much a teacher as he is a victim, while Jake is as much a learner as he is a lawyer.

Shankman, A. (Director). (2007). *Hairspray*. [Motion Picture]. Los Angeles, CA: New Line Cinema.

In the 1960s, Tracy Turnblad, an overweight teenager, loves to dance and watch the Corny Collins Show (similar to the iconic *American Bandstand*). Every day after school, Tracy and her best friend, Penny, race home after school to watch the show and dream about the show's hot main dancer, Link. After a dancer leaves the Corny Collins show, Tracy sees it as an opportunity to audition for the show. Tracy realizes how unfair the show's policy is: African American students couldn't dance on the show more than once a month, on the segregated "Negro Day." *Hairspray* has many examples of oppression, prejudice, and discrimination. The movie explores racism, as well as size-ism or weight-ism and classism

Spheeris, P. (Director). (1994). *The Little Rascals*. [Motion Picture]. Orlando, FL: Universal Studios.

The boys in the "He-Man Woman Haters Club" have rules that prohibit girls from being in the club. In fact, the club members are not supposed to even associate with girls. The boys completely ignore the girls and want nothing to do with them. Spanky learns that his best friend, Alfalfa, has been hanging out with (gasp) a girl and that (gasp) he has actually been courting her.

Spielberg, S. (Director). (1997). *Amistad*. [Motion Picture]. Universal City, CA: DreamWorks.

Chronicles the 1839 revolt on board a slave ship bound for America. Much of the story involves the court-room drama about the slave who led the revolt.

Taylor, T. (Director). (2011). *The Help*. [Motion Picture]. Glendale, CA: DreamWorks.

This film, based on the novel by Kathryn Stockett, is set in southern Mississippi during the 1960's. When Skeeter, a prominent white female returns home after college, she hopes to start her career as a writer. She experiences a sense of cognitive dissonance as she realizes how her so-called friends and family members treat the black women who have spent their lives working for prominent wealthy white southern families. Skeeter interviews a few black women and realizes there are many more women with stories to tell. Her actions confuse black women and white women alike. Blacks and whites usually did not mix socially in the mid-twentieth century, so why would she (a

white woman) be interviewing black women? *The Help* is a good representation of the differences that historically existed. *The Help* illustrates some of the struggles African American women go through as maids and nannies for white families. They cook, serve, clean, and take care of children and still are poorly treated. This movie illustrates racism, prejudice, cultural incompetence, sexism, and discrimination.

Tollin, M. (Director). (2003). *Radio*. [Motion Picture]. Santa Monica, CA: Revolution Studios.

Based on a true story that spanned more than three decades. Each day, Radio watches the football team practicing. One day, some members of the team notice, and they begin to bully him because of his cognitive disabilities. The coach makes Radio the team's water boy. Eventually, Radio even helps coach. The team members eventually accept him. Then, Radio's mother dies, and the coach takes him under his wing. Radio stays in high school for a long time and continues to coach.

Washington, D. (Director). (1997). *The Great Debaters*. Los Angeles, CA: MGM. [Motion Picture].

"*The Great Debaters* celebrates the power of truthful words to overcome obstacles and set people free. Debate begins with a resolution. It starts with a point to prove. It is a form of battle, fought with words. Denzel Washington directs *The Great Debaters* as a dance between opposing forces. On the affirmative side, stand the twin pillars of justice and righteousness. The opposition is fueled by ignorance and oppression. Who will win? The debate continues. Melvin B. Tolson, a professor at Wiley College in Texas. In 1935, he leads the Wiley debate team towards an undefeated season and an opportunity to become the first black college to compete against renowned Harvard University. *The Great Debaters* demonstrates the power of education and the ability of truth to unlock opportunities. It also demonstrates the importance of mentors—teachers and parents who model maturity, confidence, and resolve."

Waters, M. (Director). (2004). *Mean Girls*. [Motion Picture]. Los Angeles, CA: Paramount Pictures.

Cady Heron has led an exciting but sheltered life. She was raised and home-schooled by her research scientist parents in Africa. At the age of 16, she and her family move back to America, and Cady enrolls in a public high school. She gets a major culture shock when she finds the school segregated into various groups such as the Asian Nerds, the Cool Asians, the Sexually Active Band Geeks, and, high in the pecking order, the Plastics, a group of three girls. Regina, the queen bee and her workers, Gretchen and Karen, are all in love with themselves. The first person to befriend Cady is gothic Janis, reputed to be a lesbian, who lets Cady in on the social hierarchy at the school. Janis used to be best friends with Regina in middle school but they are now enemies. When Regina invites Cady into the Plastics, Janis sees a way to sabotage the group. Together with friend Damien, who's gay, Janis and Cady devise ways to bring down the Plastics. The film addresses themes such as friendship, popularity,

gossip, revenge, prejudice, communication, acceptance, self-concept, conflict management, forgiveness, and more

Weetaluktuk, J. (Director). Qallunajatut (Urban Inuk). [Motion Picture]. Montreal: Isuma Films.

This film shatters stereotypes and gives a vivid, emotional understanding of the challenges facing those who would live Inuit lives in contemporary urban environments. Qallunajatut (Urban Inuk) follows the lives of three Inuit in Montreal over the course of one hot and humid summer. Only two generations ago, Inuit lived in small, nomadic hunting camps scattered across the vast Arctic landscape. Since the 1950s, this traditional lifestyle has undergone an astonishing transition from Stone Age to Information Age, as Inuit first relocated (often by force) to government-run settlements and, more recently, migrated beyond the settlement into southern cities. Watch the 47-minute film at this web site: <http://www.isuma.tv/lo/en/isuma-productions/qallunajatut-urban-inuk>

Woodruff, B. (Director). (2005). Beauty Shop. [Motion Picture]. Los Angeles, CA: MGM Studios.

Gina has moved to Atlanta and is working in beauty shop run by the stuck up boss Jorge. Although she mostly enjoys working at Jorge's, Gina's real dream is own her own beauty shop. One day, after Jorge insults her and takes credit for her work, Gina quits the salon and opens up her own beauty shop with her friend and ex workmate from Jorge's Lynn. Gina's beauty shop becomes well known as a place to get great hair and speak your mind. However when Gina's shop starts taking Jorge's clients, he's out for revenge. But Jorge underestimates the power that Gina and her fellow co-workers have.

Wright, J. (Director). (2008). The Soloist. [Motion Picture]. Los Angeles, CA: DreamWorks.

A true story of how a chance meeting can change a life. A Los Angeles newspaper reporter discovers a brilliant and distracted street musician. In 2005, Steve Lopez is a journalist working for the L.A. Times. He is divorced and now works for his ex-wife, an editor. A biking accident lands Lopez in a hospital. One day, he hears a violin being played beautifully. Investigating, he encounters Nathaniel Ayers, a homeless schizophrenic, who is playing a violin. During the conversation that follows, Lopez learns that Ayers once attended Juilliard. Curious as to how a former student of such a prestigious school ended up on the streets, Lopez contacts Juilliard but learns that no record of Ayers graduating from it exists. Lopez soon realizes that he has no better story to write about. Luckily, he soon learns that Ayers did attend Juilliard, but dropped out after two years. Lopez finds and contacts Ayers' sister, who tells him that Ayers was once a child prodigy, until he showed symptoms of schizophrenia at Juilliard. Unable to handle the voices, Ayers dropped out and ended up on the streets. The two form a unique friendship with a bond that transforms both their lives.

Yakin, B. (Director). (2000). Remember the Titans. [Motion Picture/DVD] Los Angeles, CA: Walt Disney Home Video.

Set in Alexandria, Virginia, in 1971, the fact-based story begins with the integration of black and white students at T. C. Williams High School. This effort to improve race relations is most keenly felt by the school's football team, the Titans, and bigoted tempers flare when a black head coach is appointed and his successful predecessor reluctantly stays on as his assistant. It's affirmative action at its most potentially volatile, complicated by the secret that the coach will be fired if he loses a single game in the Titans' 13-game season. The players represent a hotbed of racial tension, but the team struggles toward unity and gridiron glory. This film applies to cultural competency because it has to do with stages of cultural adaptation. First, the players were unaware of what they were about to face. Then, they looked at only the differences between the two races. Then, they realized their similarities, including a common interest in football and wanting to win. Then, they became acquainted and adapted their attitudes and behaviors to work together, capitalizing on the strengths that each individual brought to the team.

Zwick, E. (Director). (2003). The Last Samurai. [Motion Picture]. Los Angeles, CA: Warner Brothers Pictures.

In the 1870s, Captain Nathan Algren, a cynical veteran of the American Civil war who will work for anyone, is hired by Americans who want lucrative contracts with the Emperor of Japan to train the peasant conscripts for the first standing imperial army in modern warfare using firearms. The imperial Omura cabinet's first priority is to repress a rebellion of traditionalist Samurai -hereditary warriors- who remain devoted to the sacred dynasty but reject the Westernizing policy and even refuse firearms. Yet when his ill-prepared superior force sets out too soon, their panic allows the sword-wielding samurai to crush them. Badly wounded, Algren's courageous stand makes the samurai leader, Katsumoto, spare his life. Once nursed to health, he learns to know and respect the old Japanese way. Algren participates as advisor in Katsumoto's failed attempt to save the Bushido tradition, but Omura gets repressive laws enacted. When the conflict returns to the battlefield, Algren must now choose to place his loyalty to one of the embittered sides. Written by KGF Vissers.

Zwick, E. (Director). (2006). Blood Diamond. [Motion Picture]. Santa Monica, CA: The Bedford Falls.

Danny Archer is a smuggler looking for a single diamond to make enough money to leave Africa for good. He meets Solomon Vandy, an African diamond miner. Archer has to choose between greed and helping Vandy. In midst of a civil war for control of the diamond mines, children (including Vandy's own son) are captured and forced to fight. This film shows how Sierra Leone was torn apart by the struggle between government soldiers and rebel forces. Archer's life changes forever as he is given a chance to make peace with the war around him. This film is an example of how hatred and oppression can result in horrible war.