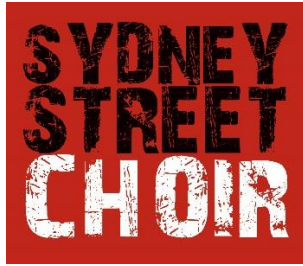


EDUCATION PACK



# THIS LITTLE LIGHT OF MINE

A film and educational resource  
that brings stories of hope and  
resilience to your students



# This Little Light of Mine

**A film and educational resource that brings stories of hope and resilience to your students**

This film and educational resource is for students 15 years and above and can be used in:

- Well-being / pastoral care setting for teaching about resilience, community, belonging and social equity
- Society and Culture / HSIE
- PDHPE
- Music / Performing Arts / Music psychology

## Pre-viewing Questions & Activities

### Think - Pair – Share

#### Think

- Think about an activity that you participate in with other people. It might be playing a sport, performing with a musical group or doing outdoor activities with your family and friends.
- What are some of the things that you enjoy most when participating in that activity?
- What are the benefits of being part of the group?
- How do you feel when you participate in that activity?

#### Pair

- Find a partner. Share your responses.
- Discuss and share some of the challenges that can happen in groups.
- How have you overcome these challenges?

## Share

- As a class, discuss your responses to the Think and Pair questions above. On the board, screen or on a large piece of butchers' paper collate groups' responses under the following titles:
  - Group Activities (e.g., sporting clubs, musical ensembles). Be specific.
  - Benefits
  - Challenges
  - How to overcome challenges

Return to this list after viewing the film.

## During-viewing questions

(Approximate **time stamps** have been given to assist with finding responses to the questions)

0'-1'

- James Paul, the SSC choir director, lists a range of benefits of singing with a choir. What are some of these benefits?

1'22"

- How has the SSC helped choir member Sonny?

2'30"-2'45"

- Leonie Oaks, the SSC Social Worker, speaks about the way singing can be a safe way of expressing emotion. What do you think she means by this? How does expressing emotion in this way help the choir members?

3'05"

- SSC member Wazza says the choir "gives a sense of belonging". In what ways does the choir help him feel connected to others? Why do you think this is important for him and the other members?

3'50"

- What is the "liberating experience" of performing in public that James speaks about?

4'10"

- Leonie says the members "find a voice". What does this expression mean for the choir members?

4'20"

- Choir members are rarely "seen" or noticed in public, why?

5'30"

- How do audiences respond to the choir? Look at the images of the audiences portrayed in the film. Write down how the audiences act. What do their facial expressions and movement suggest about their response to the choir?

6'

- James says, "We're about full, honest, open expression." What does he mean by this? Why might that be important to the health and success of the choir?

6'24"

- Sonny lists some important aspects of acceptance within the choir. What are some of the examples she gives and why do you think they're important?

6'40"

- Sometimes choir members get upset. Leonie shares how the members respond to each other in these situations. She lists three important components in developing good relationships, what are they?

7'

- Wazza lists some wonderful outcomes from being part of the choir. List at least three. How do these compare to the list of benefits that you wrote in the Pre-viewing section?

7'13"

- Chairperson Anna Dear, speaks about "giving" to an audience as opposed to performing. How do performers "give" and what is the benefit to them and to others?

7'30"

- What does Wazza articulate around the importance of "seeing" someone and being "seen"? Why do you think this moves him?

8'17"

- Why do you think the filmmaker, Hugh Clark, has a montage of moving portraits of each of the choir members at the end of the film? What effect does this have on you as a viewer?

## Post-viewing Discussion Questions

- What is the significance of the song *This Little Light of Mine* interspersed throughout the short film?
- What are the benefits of singing in a choir? Think about physical, social and psychological benefits.
- What might it feel like to be marginalised or invisible to others in society? Why is it important for people to be "seen"? How can you "see" or "notice" the marginalised in our society?

- One of the choir's aims is to form a community through connection. The gel of this unique community is the music making. Think about a community or group that you are part of. What is the gel that keeps it together?
- Leonie states that knowledge, kindness and compassion are key ingredients to the positive community and sense of belonging created at SSC. Write down your own definition of each of these words and as a class, share some actions that express these words.
- Review the discussion responses that you collated before viewing the film. What can you add to this shared knowledge? e.g., How do the choir members overcome the challenges inherent in working together as a choir?
  - Group Activities (e.g. sporting clubs, musical ensembles). Be specific.
  - Benefits
  - Challenges
  - How to overcome challenges
- What are three things you can do to build a greater sense of belonging for yourself and others? Choose one action that you can take today, share it with a partner and check in with each other next lesson to see the result of your action!
- *Where can you find a community of belonging to let your Little Light shine?*

The Sydney Street Choir is a musical community formed in 2001 that supports those who have experienced homelessness or disadvantage.

The Sydney Street Choir runs choir rehearsal programs at Redfern, Liverpool and the Dillwynia Women's Prison, with over 100 members participating each week.

Their Social Welfare support program helps members with issues such as housing, domestic violence, mental health and financial welfare through direct assistance, counselling and referrals to other services.

The choir provides friendship, focus and family.

*This Little Light of Mine* film produced and directed by Hugh Clark

For more information please contact [info@sydneystreetchoir.org.au](mailto:info@sydneystreetchoir.org.au)