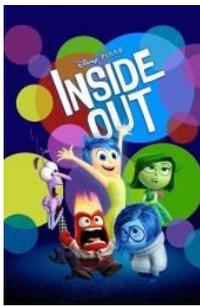


Here are 10 movies for the middle school classroom that support students'

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Social Emotional Learning



1. *Inside Out*

Self-Control, Teamwork, Empathy, Integrity

A modern animated classic about emotions, *Inside Out* will help kids understand the power of our feelings and why it's important to express them -- whether it's happiness, fear, or regret.



2. *Science Fair*

Communication, Curiosity, Perseverance, Teamwork

Following different student groups competing in an international science fair, this documentary highlights the perseverance and teamwork required to make it to the top. Help students analyze

the variety of personality types they'll see in the film -- from shy to self-possessed and beyond -- and how they help or hurt the contestants' goals.



3. *Far from the Tree*

Communication, Compassion, Empathy

This moving documentary is about parents learning how to raise kids who are unlike themselves -- whether they have a disability, identify as LGBTQ, or have committed a crime. Students will see how these parents grapple with empathy and develop tolerance and then consider how their own families handle their unique characteristics.



4. *RBG*

Integrity

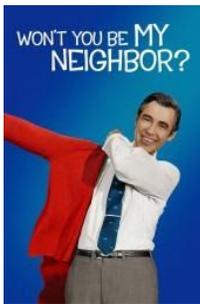
Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg headlines this documentary about her life and career. Politics aside, students can see how Ginsburg maintained integrity in her private trials and public fights for gender equality.



5. *Wonder*

Empathy, Perseverance

Kids will get emotional as they watch this story of a fifth-grader born with a facial abnormality. Bullying is a strong focus in the film, and students can talk about why it's important to try to understand what their peers are going through and when to stand up for others.



6. *Won't You Be My Neighbor*

Compassion, Integrity

This highly acclaimed biopic of Fred Rogers' life showcases his passion for inspiring integrity and kindness. Whether or not they know who he is, students can argue whether the show's discussion of tough topics with young kids had a positive or negative impact on kids' social and emotional learning.



7. *Arrival*

Communication, Compassion, Curiosity

Communication is front and center in this sci-fi alien tale. Faced with important choices around compassion, the characters make decisions that will get students debating the consequences of how we talk to, and learn to work with, each other.



8. *Liyana*

Courage, Empathy, Perseverance

A unique mix of live-action documentary and animation, *Liyana* tells the emotional story of a group of African orphans and the fictional tale they created. The tale is based on their own experiences, which can be emotional and will open up students to new perspectives.



9. *Black Panther*

Courage, Integrity, Teamwork

This popular Marvel superhero movie is a great opportunity to take a film that kids already love and show them how their favorite characters handle integrity, decisiveness, and teamwork. You can also discuss the effect the film has had in African American communities and why it has produced such gratitude and pride.



10. *Eighth Grade*

Communication, Courage

This R-rated film is certainly the most controversial pick on this list; the director has hosted special screenings of *Eighth Grade* in schools across the country. Discuss as a class whether the characters and issues surfaced in the film are true to real life, and talk about how students might deal (or have dealt) with these types of experiences.