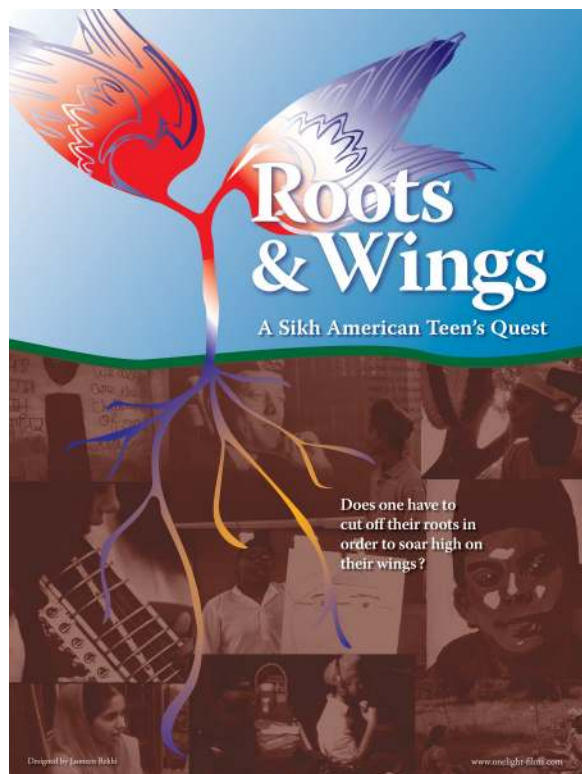


Roots & Wings



Frequently Asked Questions

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Who might be interested in showing this movie?

This movie can serve many purposes. For **world history** teachers, it provides a window into Sikhism while highlighting the challenges faced by young Sikh Americans. It could open a discussion on this global religious minority in the context of a unit on India and its many subcultures.

Language teachers might use this movie as part of unit on prevalent stereotypes of the target culture and how we combat them, as well as a discussion of how the world views Americans.

Teachers charged with peer support or **diversity programs** can use this film to empower students to be themselves and to make positive changes in the community.

English teachers can use this movie in advance of a lesson on a particular writing style. For example, students might be learning to write letters to their congressional representatives, and this movie might spur a discussion of laws that need to be written to protect students from bullying. Students learning to keep a journal or write

autobiographical pieces might benefit from seeing the world through the camera of an “atypical” American teen.

Interfaith or Youth Groups will benefit from developing knowledge of universal concepts of a large yet practically unknown ethnic group and faith while developing an understanding about what young people their own age have to go through in order to be accepted. Counselors can use this movie to instill confidence in anyone that feels visibly or ideologically different.

Is this movie primarily about Sikhism?

No. The movie explains the origins of Sikhism and some of the practices that a typical young Sikh might experience, but the movie is not about Sikhism per say. Teachers wishing to teach a lesson on Sikhism can use a variety of other resources available on this website and elsewhere. [Sikhism 101 with Angad Singh](#) is a good start.

Can I just show the movie without a lesson plan?

This movie is bound to generate much discussion and emotion. The best way to channel the interest of students and bring them to a higher level of thinking is to do pre- and post-activities with the film.

How long would I need to present this movie?

This depends on what type of class you are teaching and the purpose for showing the movie. In order for students to fully appreciate the message of the film, I would allocate a minimum of three class periods (about 50 minutes each). There is definitely enough room to expand the lesson for a full week, which would provide for greater discussion among students.

I like the movie and the lessons. What else can I do?

You can use this project as a springboard for future student activism. Challenge students to think about something in their world/community that needs improvement – then ask them how to go about improving it. The idea is that one person really can make a difference. The possibilities are endless: Instead of complaining about untended school yards, they could start a gardening club; instead of despairing over immigration legislation, start a letter campaign; etc...

What is the ideal age group for this movie?

Both middle and high school students would benefit from seeing this movie. Staff members as well might be surprised by the content and we would encourage you to share it with your colleagues.

Can I show this movie in a large group setting?

Yes, the movie can be screened in an auditorium, but the workshop should be done in smaller groups (15-30 students) to facilitate discussion.

How do students generally respond to the movie?

Most students are impressed that someone their age took the time to tell his story as a way to help others. In addition, most students express that they were unaware of Sikhs in particular and of hate crimes in general taking places against minority groups. Finally, many students feel empowered to tell their own story as a result of seeing the movie and participating in the workshop.

I don't know anything about Sikhs or Sikhism. Can I still show this movie?

You should, of course, be aware of any content or sub-content before you show a film to students. Now is a great time to learn! Follow the various links on this site to find out more about the Sikhs. Sikhism is a non-proselytizing religion, so there is no effort to gain converts through this film. Remember, the movie shows the struggle of Sikh youth in America, but the message of the film is universal.

Is there a fee to screen the movie?

There is no fee. If you are interested in screening the movie and executing the lesson plan, please [pre-screen](#) the movie and contact us. We will send you your screening DVD and a permission to screen.