

Faith's World, a BYKids film, directed by Faith Guilbault

Rationale: People with disabilities make up the largest minority group that anyone can join at any time, yet this population is grossly underrepresented and frequently faces discrimination. Faith's film showcases not just how her disability impairs her, but also how much she *is* able to do in this world. Faith proves that, while cerebral palsy does greatly affect her life, she has plenty in common with other 16-year-olds her age, too.

Faith's World

Sixteen-year-old Faith Guilbault from Baltimore, Maryland, loves skydiving, horseback riding, and has walked the runway at Fashion Week in New York City. She is also one of 61 million people in the United States living with a disability.

Guilbault is visually impaired and has cerebral palsy, which affects her ability to move and maintain balance and posture. Yet Guilbault does not want anyone to feel sorry for her. She is resilient, hard-working, and determined to realize her dreams.

With guidance from filmmaker Joyce Chopra, Guilbault shines light on her world, inviting viewers to focus on the similarities rather than differences between abled and disabled people.

Key Terms and Concepts

- **Ableism:** a set of beliefs or practices that devalue and discriminate against people with physical, intellectual, or psychiatric disabilities and often rests on the assumption that disabled people need to be 'fixed' in one form or the other. ([Center for Disability Rights](#)).

Discussion Questions

1. *Faith's World* begins with the director and star flying in a skydiving simulation. What does Faith enjoy about this activity? Why might she have begun the film in this way?
2. Faith's mother explains why posting videos about her daughter growing up on social media was so important. What were some of her motivations?
3. In a conversation with two friends who also live with cerebral palsy, the young women discuss why they do not appreciate being seen as "inspiring." In addition, they talk about the distinction of feeling sympathy versus feeling pitied. Reflect upon this conversation, and consider ways that you believe differently-abled people might like to be spoken about instead.

4. In a lively family game night, Faith and her family play with a young man named Garrett. What does Faith say about Garrett's disability? What does Faith think about Garrett?
5. Faith's brother explains how being her sister has positively impacted him. How did growing up as her brother alter how he behaves as a college student?
6. Why did Mindy Scheier create the Runway of Dreams Foundation?

| | What skills or abilities do these resources help Faith to practice or improve upon to benefit her quality of life? |
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| The Maryland School for the Blind | |
| Equine Therapy (horseback riding) | |
| Physical Therapy with Miss Jessica | |
| Adaptive Clothing through the Runway of Dreams Foundation | |

Final Reflection: What do you have in common with Faith? What connections can you make between her interests, struggles, and aspirations and your own?