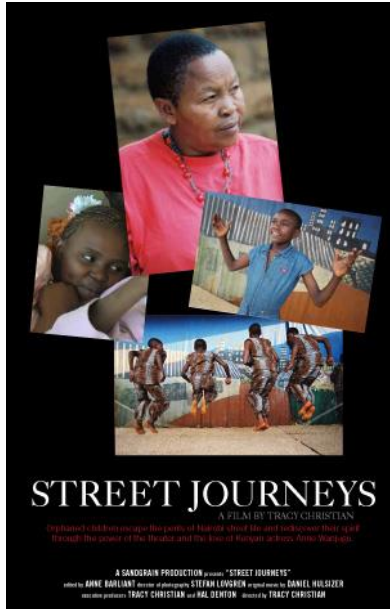


FILM DISCUSSION GUIDE



Before viewing the film:

When you were a child, what did you like to do for fun?

Did you participate in any activities (sports, theater, music, clubs, etc)?

Did you have any teachers, coaches, or mentors that played a major role in your life?

How did those mentors contribute to who you are today?

During the film:

Chronology

Place the following events in chronological order.

- _____ Suzanne Njeri becomes the director of Shangilia
- _____ Anne Wanjugu works as an actress in Nairobi
- _____ Students like Samuel Muturi and Martha Wanjiku come to Shangilia
- _____ The Shangilia Youth Choir of Kenya travels to the United States
- _____ J.D. Steele starts leading music workshops at Shangilia
- _____ Martha Wanjiku completes a medical internship
- _____ Japeth Njenge becomes Shangilia’s accountant
- _____ Japeth Njenge becomes the director of Shangilia
- _____ Samuel Muturi is forced to leave Shangilia
- _____ Anne Wanjugu founds Shangilia
- _____ Samuel Muturi leads the drama task force for Shangilia’s AIDS education initiative
- _____ Anne Wanjugu passes away

Comprehension Questions:

1. Anne says that there are many homes and orphanages for street children in Nairobi. Why is Shangilia different?

2. What is “gum” and why do many street children start using it according to the Doctor?

Character Profiles:

Anne Wanjugu

3. Why did she found Shangilia, and what were her hopes for the school?

4. What is Anne's professional background?

Japeth Njenge

5. Why did Njenge volunteer to become Shangilia's accountant?

6. When Njenge became the director of Shangilia, what was his first course of action? Why?

Suzanne Njeri

7. When Suzanne became the director of Shangilia, what were her first priorities? How did this change Shangilia, and how did students respond?

J.D. Steele

8. What is his professional background? What kind of work does he do with Shangilia and its students?

Shangilia Student Profiles:

Samuel Muturi

9. What talents did Anne see in him, and what was he like as a young performer?

10. What was he like as a teenager, and how did Suzanne respond to this?

11. What is he like as an adult?

John Njoroge

12. What is John's background and how did he end up on the streets?

13. What happened to his sisters?

Martha Wanjiku

14. When Martha first came to Shangilia, what was she like? Briefly describe.

15. What was Martha like by the time she left Shangilia?

Post-Viewing Discussion Questions:

16. What does Anne mean when she says, “I do not believe anyone is poor”? How does this attitude influence her leadership at Shangilia?
17. Dr. Michael Johnson, a volunteer physician for Shangilia, talks about “gum.” What does he say about it? What does he think is the best way to respond to children who use it? Do you agree with him? Why or why not?
18. How is Suzanne’s approach to discipline different from that of Anne and Njenge? Of these two approaches, is there one that you think is better than the other? Why?
19. How can participation in the arts heal and transform people?



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