Before viewing the film:

1. When you think of fashion in Africa, specifically in The Republic of Congo, what colors and styles do you expect to see?

2. What do you know about the sport of wrestling? Are there different kinds of wrestling?

3. What is your favorite kind of music? In general, what message does your favorite music convey?
During the Film:

Identifying Characters
Match the character with the appropriate description:

___Carlos La Menace,  
   the Marshal b  a) Technical director of the Brazzaville wrestling league
___Yves François Ngatsongo f  b) MC at Radio Liberté, narrator
___Yaya Palmas Malanda c  c) Champion wrestler born and raised in Brazzaville
___Chériffe Bakala the First e  d) former president of France
___Blanchard N'Kitanou a  e) Up and coming musician in Brazzaville
___Yves Saint Laurent g  f) President and founder of the Sapeurs Association of Brazzaville
___Charles de Gaulle d  g) Famous French clothing designer and brand
___Mpassi Pauline h  h) Yaya Palmas' mother
___Féfé Ngakiegni j  i) Director of the 5 Jours Hip Hop music festival
___Jehu Bikoumou i  j) Former wrestling producer

Comprehension Questions

1. What anniversary is Brazzaville celebrating in 2010?

2. Who is the idol of Yves François Ngatsongo? Why?
3. At what age did Palmas begin wrestling?

4. How many years has Chériffe been making music?

5. Describe SAPE in your own words? What is it’s origin?

6. What country does SAPE honor? In what ways to they honor it?

7. What is a sapeur? Give at least 5 details.

8. What two exciting events will Chériff and his band the F.B. Stars be involved in this weekend?
9. There is a parade in town. What does it announce? What are being used as parade floats?

10. Why do the fans say they like wrestling? Give at least one specific example that you found to be surprising.

11. How does Blanchard N’Kitanou describe Palmas’ style? What does Féfé name as a reason Palmas is the best?

12. Why does music suffer in the Congo? What is the purpose of the festival?

13. What kind of music does Chériff’s band make? Do they find themselves easily accepted by the rap community?

14. What is the relationship between France and Brazzaville?

15. List at least three rules of being a great sapeur.
16. How do the sapeurs afford their expensive lifestyle? Give an example.

17. Write at least one symbol for each color according to the sapeur rules:
   a) white ___________________________________
   b) red _____________________________________
   c) blue _____________________________________
   d) yellow ___________________________________
   e) black ____________________________________
   f) orange _________________________________
   g) green ___________________________________
   h) pink ____________________________________

18. What is Palmas’ connection to the market? Provide at least three details about this story.

19. Why did Palmas’ family finally start to support his wrestling career?

20. Explain Palmas’ use of fetish in wrestling in your own words.

21. What are two of the wrestling styles in the Congo?
22. What advice does Chériff's mom give him?

23. What type of drum is being used by Chériff's band in the studio? Describe it.

24. What do naysayers of SAPE say about it? What does Carlos La Menace say to support SAPE?

25. Who dies? How do the people in Brazzaville mourn this death?

26. Palmas wrestles at the M'bongi Stadium to defend his belt. Does he win?

Post-Viewing Discussion Questions:

1. Chériff says, “The artists, the musician for instance, is the poet of the street, the journalist, the one that listens, on the bus, at the market, at schools, hospitals, and he must transmit that to the authorities who don’t do their jobs well.” Do you
believe that music can be used in this way? Can you think of any examples of songs like this from the United States?

2. Carlos La Menace says that SAPE is an ode to joy, the joy of living. “It is an art form, pur wit born from the poverty in our streets almost 100 years ago.” Do you agree? Why or why not?

3. Describe how the crowd, especially the women, mourn the death in the streets. Is this a common mourning practice that you’re familiar with? If it is different from how you mourn, does that make it wrong?

4. Carlos La Menace believes that Yves, Chériff and Palmas have something in common, that they get by every day in order to move forward. “Here in Brazzaville and in all of Africa, it’s not about conforming, but waking up and building your own destiny. What do African people demand? To have leaders they trust who understand their suffering and for the West to give us a break.” Analyze each part of this statement and reflect. Do you agree or disagree? Why?