

FILM DISCUSSION GUIDE



Takeo: A Percussionist with Downs Syndrome

Before viewing the film:

1. The main character of the film, Takeo, has Down's Syndrome. What do you know about Down's Syndrome and its affects?

2. Takeo is a percussionist. What types of instruments might that include?

3. The director, Takisha Tokida, documents Takeo as he takes an important trip. Visiting a new culture, what experiences may Takeo need to adapt to?

During the Film:

Identifying Characters

Match the character with the appropriate description:

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|---|
| ___ Takeo Niikura f | a) Senegalese woman who lives in Japan; organized workshop |
| ___ Wagane N'diaye Rose a | b) Led first African drumming workshop that Takeo attended |
| ___ Abdoulaye N'diaye Rose d | c) Takeo's best friend and bandmate |
| ___ Hiroshi Akai c | d) Wagane's brother, primary teacher in workshop |
| ___ Arona N'diaye Rose b | e) Elementary school teacher who led Jomon Orchestra to teach alternative music to learners of all ages |
| ___ Papa Doudou g | f) 24 year old Japanese musician with Down's Syndrome |
| ___ Kunitaro Ikeda e | g) Sabar player, 1 st living national treasure of Senegal |

Comprehension Questions

1. What instrument does Takeo play primarily?

2. Where does Takeo go in January of 2008? Be specific.

3. What type of workshop does Takeo participate in?

4. Where are Takeo and the other workshop participants from?

5. Describe the sabar drum and how to play it.?

6. Describe Takeo's interaction with classmates when he was in primary school.

7. How do the children in Senegal greet the visiting workshop members in the morning?

8. Describe the djembe drum.

9. Sadio teaches dance that is traditionally done during what ceremony?

10. Why do they have a celebration with food and candles?

11. How did Takeo get his start with African drumming? Name at least two details.

12. In what ways was Arona a good teacher to Takeo?

13. How did Takeo improve his drumming in the year between Arona's workshops?

14. What two famous jazz musicians has Papa Doudou performed with?

15. How is food served and eating in Senegal, as seen at Papa Doudou's home?

16. Kunitaro Ikeda led an orchestra that used what kinds of instruments?

17. What are the three things Takeo loves to do most?

18. Name at least three instruments that we see Takeo play throughout the film

19. Describe the Tajabone festival. Include at least three details.

20. What does Takeo's mother say that adult support has given to Takeo?

21. What is the role of the sabar in wrestling?

22. What is Papa Doudou's goal in teaching the sabar to children?

23. What is Taneber?

24. What, from nature, does the film name as the symbol of Senegal?

25. What does Takeo do at Kinata-mura?

Post-Viewing Discussion Questions:

1. In your opinion, should music education be more funded and valued for children in the United States? Why or why not?
2. Examine this film culturally.
 - a. What cultural difference most surprised you in either Takeo's native culture or Senegalese culture?
 - b. Were there any practices that confused you?
3. Other than music, what areas of study might have the power to integrate cultures in the way that African drumming did for Takeo and Senegalese culture?



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