



## Waiting for "Superman"



### Synopsis

Davis Guggenheim follows a handful of promising kids through a system that inhibits, rather than encourages, academic growth. In the process he undertakes an exhaustive review of public education, surveying "drop-out factories" and "academic sinkholes," methodically dissecting the system and its seemingly intractable problems.

### Discussion Questions

- If you are familiar with the education system in the capacity of an educator, administrator or a student, how did this film align with your experiences and understanding of America's education system?
- As a parent, mentor or student, how did this film allow you to see the education system differently? Did it shed light on any issues you were not already aware of?
- After viewing *Waiting for "Superman"*, do you see your responsibility to America's youth or to the education system any differently? How?
- If you are currently in school, was the way the education system portrayed familiar to what you have experienced? How?
- If you are out of school, has the education system changed since you experienced it, whether five, 20 or even 50 years ago? In what ways?
- Consider all the stories of the families and youth striving for a better education and use these individuals' stories as a platform to consider your own education. How did this film impact your appreciation of the education you received?
- Did this film give you a different understanding of the importance of parents in education? In what way?



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### Do Your Research

- Discover how your community's schools are doing. Take the time to research factors such as graduation rates, testing methods and reading scores. Determine where your support can be most helpful in your community's schools.
- Research some successful teaching methods that are being used around the country and the world and why these methods are so successful.

### Get Involved

- Visit the Take Action page at [www.WaitingForSuperman.com](http://www.WaitingForSuperman.com) for a full list of all the ways you can get involved and support and impact education. A few of their suggestions are below to get you started.
- Classrooms don't always have the supplies they need and teachers often pay for those resources with their own money. Visit [DonorsChoose.org](http://DonorsChoose.org) and find worthy education projects to support.
- To ensure a great teacher in every classroom, contact your school board and ask them to support and reward great teachers.
- Act as a mentor or a reading tutor in a school in your community.



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