



THE PRINCESS DIARIES



Synopsis

Mia Thermopolis is a social outcast whose life changes drastically after learning she is the heir to a tiny European principality's throne. But as her royal grandmother schools Mia on the fine points of posture and conducting herself with gracious disdain, she becomes progressively at odds with her best friend.

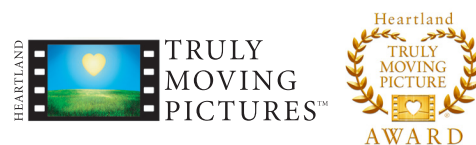
Discussion Questions

- Mia learns just before her 16th birthday that she is actually the princess of Genovia. Many young girls dream of being princesses or royalty some day. As portrayed in *The Princess Diaries*, what are some good things about being a princess in the spotlight? What are some of the bad things?
- Mia states in the film that her expectation in life is to be invisible and that she's good at it. Being invisible to Mia is a defense mechanism to keep teasing and bullying at school at bay. Like Mia, do you have any defense mechanisms? What are they?
- Even though Mia at first rejects the attention that being a princess brings, she embraces it when Josh, the boy she likes, finally notices her. How did Mia's decision to go to the beach party with Josh affect Lilly and Michael? Have you ever hurt your friend's feelings unintentionally, like Mia? How did you make it up to them?
- Why do you think Lana and the other cheerleaders bullied Mia? Have you ever been bullied by someone? Have you ever bullied someone else? Why?
- Towards the end of the film, Lilly admits to Mia that she is jealous of her because of her new popularity and because Lilly thought she might lose Mia as her best friend. Has jealousy ever caused arguments between you and your friends? How did you resolve these tensions?



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Activities

- There are many things that Mia has to learn as she prepares to accept the title of Princess of Genovia. Along with learning other languages and the history of Genovia, she also must learn to dance. Like Mia, learn some different styles of Ballroom Dance, such as the Viennese Waltz, Samba, Rumba and the Tango!
- Getting dressed up can be fun. *The Princess Diaries* ends with a formal ball. Throw a ball for your friends. It doesn't have to cost much money. There are lots of different formal dresses that you can borrow from older friends or relatives, or even buy at Goodwill. You might not be a real princess, but after throwing a fun ball for all of your friends, you might be surprised at how much you feel like royalty.



Get Involved

- Being a princess isn't all about dressing up and attending balls, it's also about having the power to bring people together and to affect change. Mia's friend Lilly thinks that Mia becoming a Princess is such a wonderful thing because she'll have the power to be heard and to make a difference. While people in the spotlight have an advantage at being heard, that doesn't mean that people like you can't be heard. Find a cause close to your heart, just like Lilly does in the film. Whether through petitions, writing your Senators and Congressmen or holding special events to shed light on your cause, you have the power to affect change too!

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