



#9920

THE TEEN FILES FLIPPED: MOTHER/DAUGHTER

AIMS MULTIMEDIA, 2001
Grade Level: 9-12
21 mins.

DESCRIPTION

Mothers and teen-age daughters don't understand each other frequently; but when Connie and her mother Jill switch lives for 24 hours, they discover unexpected things. Jill goes to high school and copes with social pressures, the dress code, algebra, confrontations, and hanging out without calling home. Connie struggles with housecleaning, grocery shopping and dinner, arriving late and unprepared for work, and unexpected crises. Both acquire new understanding and appreciation for each other.

ACADEMIC STANDARDS

Subject Area: Health

- Standard: Understands the relationship of family health to individual health
 - ◆ Benchmark: Knows how communication techniques can improve family life (e.g., talking openly and honestly with parents when problems arise) (See INSTRUCTIONAL GOALS 3 and 4.)
- Standard: Knows how to maintain mental and emotional health
 - ◆ Benchmark: Knows skills used to communicate effectively with family, friends, and others, and the effects of open and honest communication (See INSTRUCTIONAL GOALS 3 and 4.)

INSTRUCTIONAL GOALS

1. To explore common attitudes and perceptions of teenage girls regarding their mothers and mothers regarding their teenage daughters.
2. To examine the daily, real-world experiences, stress, responsibilities, and pressures commonly encountered by today's teens and adults.
3. To reveal how lack of communication and erroneous perceptions can undermine teen/adult relationships.
4. To demonstrate the importance of mutual respect, communication, and love in mother/daughter, adult/teen relationships.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

In this video from the explosive, award-winning series called *The Teen Files Flipped*, Connie, a 16-year-old high school student, and Jill, her mother, trade places for a

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day. Jill will experience first-hand the academic and social pressures of today's high school student, while Connie will struggle to keep the house in order, meet work deadlines, and prepare dinner, all the while dealing with life's unexpected twists and surprises.

VOCABULARY

- | | |
|------------------------------|-----------------|
| 1. appreciate | 8. manuscript |
| 2. chaperone | 9. marionette |
| 3. confiscated | 10. presentable |
| 4. detention | 11. provocative |
| 5. friction (between people) | 12. pursue |
| 6. glamour | 13. sacrifices |
| 7. hectic | |

BEFORE SHOWING

1. Discuss issues related to teenagers and their parents/caregivers. Consider:
 - a. Reasons why conflict sometimes exists between parents/caregivers and teens.
 - b. Reasons why young people do not feel comfortable telling everything to their parents or caregivers.
 - c. Misconceptions about teenagers.
 - d. Misconceptions about the role of an adult and/or a parent or caregiver.
 - e. Reasons why adults and/or parents/caregivers sometimes mistrust teenagers.
2. Discuss whether or not it is more difficult to be a teenager today than when teens' parents or caregivers were teenagers. Is it easier to be a teenager or easier to be an adult?
3. Define healthy communication.

AFTER SHOWING

Discussion Items and Questions

1. At the beginning of the video, what is Connie's opinion of her mom? What is Jill's opinion of her daughter?
2. Before they "flip," how well do Connie and Jill communicate? Give examples.
3. What are some of the problems Connie encounters on her "flipped" day? What does she learn about her mother's work and responsibilities?
4. What does Connie discover about her mother while talking with the woman who brings her child for babysitting? How does this impact Connie?
5. How does Connie react to the police calling her about Jill and her car? Why?
6. What does Jill experience during her "flipped" day at school? What does she discover about her daughter?
7. Discuss Jill's confrontation with another student. What brought on the confrontation? Does Jill handle the situation appropriately? Why or why not?
8. What do both Jill and Connie learn from walking in each other's shoes? How may this experience impact their futures?

9. Discuss whether or not this is a valuable experience for Jill and Connie. How may this kind of experience impact your life?

Applications and Activities

1. Write and perform various skits for younger audiences on responsibility and healthy communication as they pertain to the parent-child relationship.
2. Create a coupon book for the students' mothers. Brainstorm coupon ideas. Decorate the coupon books and present to the students' mothers. Possible coupon ideas include:
 - a. Clean the bathroom.
 - b. Cook dinner.
 - c. Dust.
 - d. Mow the lawn.
 - e. Vacuum.
 - f. Wash the car.
 - g. Do the laundry.
3. Compare today's teenage vernacular to that of their parents when they were teenagers.
 - a. Brainstorm a list of common vernacular used by teens today.
 - b. Interview parents to get common vernacular from when they were teens.
 - c. Share the interview results. Compare the lists of vernacular.
 - d. Discuss the communication gap as it relates to the child-parent relationship.
4. Request that each student's parent(s) send you a letter of appreciation for their child. Before distributing the letters, students write letters of appreciation to their parents.
5. Individually or in small groups, create posters symbolizing various aspects of mother/daughter relationships, such as communication, respect, support, and understanding.
6. Write an essay on your own parent/teen relationship. Consider the following questions:
 - a. What are three or four complaints or criticisms your parent expresses about you? That you have about your parent?
 - b. What would your parent learn about you if he/she spent one day walking in your shoes? What might you learn if you spent one day in your parent's shoes?
 - c. How might your parent's opinion change? How might your opinion of your parent change?
 - d. How would you like to improve your relationship with your parent?
 - e. What steps could you take to make your relationship better?
7. Create math problems on time using information from the video. Solve the problems.
8. Students interview their own mothers. Use answers to the following questions to write a short description of daily life from their mother's point of view.
 - a. What is your occupation?
 - b. What is your position or title?
 - c. At what time does your work day start?
 - d. What are your job responsibilities?
 - e. What takes place during a typical work day?



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- f. What are some of the problems you have to deal with?
- g. What do you enjoy about your job?
- h. How would you describe the pace of your work day schedule (i.e., steady, easy to handle, busy, hectic)?

CMP RELATED RESOURCES

- [Just Mom and Me #9272](#)
- [Parenting Your Teen #7766](#)
- [The Teen Files Flipped: Father/Son #9916](#)

World Wide Web



The following Web sites complement the contents of this guide; they were selected by professionals who have experience in teaching deaf and hard of hearing students. Every effort was made to select accurate, educationally relevant, and “kid safe” sites. However, teachers should preview them before use. The U.S. Department of Education, the National Association of the Deaf, and the Captioned Media Program do not endorse the sites and are not responsible for their content.

• AIMS MULTIMEDIA

<http://www.aimsmultimedia.com/titles/title.php3?code=2660-EN-VID>

This is the Web site for the company that sells *The Teen Files Flipped* videos and accompanying teacher guides. Click on the “Teacher Guide” button to access a PDF file of the guide. The lesson guide for this video includes vocabulary and comprehension worksheets, a word search, a test, and other activities.

• THE PARENT-TEEN CONNECTION <http://www.teensarenotadisease.com>

Although this site is not designed specifically for mothers and daughters, it includes many current topics for parents and teens including school and pre-college issues, teens and health, encouraging stories, positive teen articles, and much more.

• MOTHERS OF AMERICA

<http://www.mothersofamerica.com/parentingteens.htm>

This page of this Web site is devoted to issues about parenting teens. It includes articles with parenting tips, information about extracurricular overload, and teens and risky behavior. There are also sections for single moms, stepparents, working parents, and more.