

Questions before you watch

“Certain Proof: A Question of Worth”



The documentary you are about to watch features three children with severe communication and mobility disabilities and their experiences in the public schools. Their stories will challenge your own feelings about disabilities, inclusion and education. Here are a few questions to consider prior to watching their story.

1. What is your experience with cerebral palsy or other disabilities that can affect mobility and communication? What are your immediate thoughts when you see a child that has a severe disability?
2. What assumptions does our society often make about children with severe disabilities? What assumptions do you make?
3. Do you believe that children with disabilities belong in a special needs classroom or in a typical classroom of their peers? What factors affect your decision?
4. As a teacher, what are your fears about teaching a child with a severe disability in a general education setting?
5. What is a public school's responsibility in teaching children with significant physical needs? Is there ever a time when the resource demand on a single school or classroom is too great?
6. Have you ever had a time in your life when your own ability to communicate was compromised (a medical reason or a language barrier, for instance)? What did that feel like and how did you manage to get what you needed? What if you also lost your ability to move? How much would that complicate things?
7. What do you believe would be most difficult about teaching children without the ability to respond to questions due to physical disability?

