



# that's what i am

Educator's Resource Guide



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## SECTION 1

Introduction and  
Video Clips

In this section:

- Educator Welcome/Introduction
- “That’s What I Am” Film Synopsis
- Overview of Video Clips

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### DEAR EDUCATOR,

The WWE Studios film *That's What I Am* offers educators a powerful and compelling resource for discussing bullying with students. Starring Academy-Award® nominated actor Ed Harris, this film presents a moving and thought-provoking exploration of the insidious ways in which bullying can affect human beings of all ages, including students, educators, families, and members of the communities in which they live.

The film provides universal life lessons and insights into the ways human beings may mistreat individuals and groups. This resource guide is designed to provide a rich variety of tools and resources to help educators discuss the film with their students and use it as a catalyst for meaningful and positive dialogue.

#### THIS GUIDE INCLUDES:

1. An **Introduction Section** with a synopsis of the film and an overview of the complimentary *That's What I Am* Video Clips that are used as the basis for instruction in this program.
2. A **Teacher Planning Section** with essential questions aligned with the film's major themes and principles; a National Education Standards tie-in chart; and a comprehensive interdisciplinary Unit Framework that includes suggestions for general discussions and content-specific ideas for English Language Arts, Social Studies, and Guidance and Counseling.
3. Nine **Thematic Lesson Plans** with specific instructional activities that include **Student Activity Sheets**. Organized by **Learning Themes**, these lessons can be used as stand-alone teaching activities or in succession to link one concept to the next.
4. A reproducible **Reflective Journal** for students to use throughout the program based on the nine **Pillars of Character** at the center of the film.



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### PILLARS OF CHARACTER

- Courage
- Responsibility
- Dignity
- Friendship
- Advocacy
- Resiliency
- Empathy
- Identity
- Morality

### YOU CAN USE THESE MATERIALS TO:

- Reinforce concepts about bullying, cyberbullying, equality, and self-identity learned earlier in the year or in previous years.
- Supplement direct instruction and promote concept development about bullying, cyberbullying, equality, and self-identity.
- Integrate the topics of bullying, cyberbullying, equality, and self-identity into your Language Arts, Social Studies, Health, Technology, or Character Education Curriculum.
- Motivate students to learn how to prevent bullying and cyberbullying.
- Link multiple learning themes/instructional activities in succession to develop your own interdisciplinary unit.
- Provide materials for clubs and other after-school activities and volunteer/guest teacher programs.



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### FILM SYNOPSIS



Set in California against the backdrop of the mid-sixties, *That's What I Am* is a coming-of-age story that follows 12-year-old Andy Nichol (Chase Ellison), a bright student who, like most kids his age, will do anything to avoid conflict for fear of suffering overwhelming ridicule and punishment from his junior high school peers.

Everyone's favorite teacher, Mr. Simon (Ed Harris), pairs Andy with the school's biggest outcast and social pariah, Stanley, a.k.a. "Big G" (Alexander Walters), on a critical school project. Sporting thick, orange hair, a head too big for his body and ears too big for his head, Big G has been the object of ridicule since grade school. Before long, Andy will learn there was truly a method behind Mr. Simon's madness as to why he teamed these two up.

After a dramatic incident in the schoolyard, teachers and parents rethink their roles in school and society. Principal Kelner (Amy Madigan) suspends a school bully for brutally beating up a female classmate. The vindictive father of the bully makes Mr. Simon the target of a malicious rumor about his sexuality, causing Mr. Simon to question his calling as an educator and mentor to his students.

When Andy watches "Big G" fearlessly confront the school bully about the incident, a series of events are triggered. Much to Andy's surprise, he learns that Big G is a brilliant, kind, tolerant human being, who has more dignity than anyone Andy has ever encountered. Big G personifies Mr. Simon's four-word answer on how to obtain world peace:

**HUMAN DIGNITY + COMPASSION = PEACE.**

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### OVERVIEW OF VIDEO CLIPS

Clip #	Title	Approx. Length	Scene Summary/ Setting the Stage for Student Viewing	Purpose
1	I Rise Above, That's What I Do.	1:30	In this scene, which takes place in the beginning of the film, you will see Stanley (a.k.a Big G) being bullied by a group of classmates.	Use the clip to:  Show an example of bullying and highlight how the victim handles the incident with dignity and nobility.  <b>This clip is used in Learning Themes: 1, 2, 3, 4, and 8</b>
2	I Am Brave, That's What I Am.	1:00	In this scene, which takes place in the beginning of the film, you will see Norman being bullied by Sam.  (Character Pillar Clip)	Show an example of bullying and highlight how the victim is brave throughout the incident. Focus on the bystander (Andy) who chooses (in this incident) not to get involved but instead says, "hello" to the bully. Use as a "before" and "after" example to show how Andy changes throughout the film and ends up standing up for his classmates.  <b>This clip is used in Learning Theme: 1, 4, and 8</b>
3	I Am Independent, That's What I Am.	2:00	In this scene, which takes place in the beginning of the film, you will see Andy being chastised by his father about how he is mowing the lawn.	Show as an example of the feelings we have when we are bullied. Discuss if adults (parents and teachers) can be bullies and victims of bullying.  <b>This clip is used in Learning Theme: 1</b>
4	I Am An Advocate, That's What I Am.	4:00	In this scene, which takes place in the beginning of the film, Karen is attacked by Jason, and Stanley comes to her rescue. Karen is subject to repeatedly being bullied by her peers because of her physical attributes.	Show as an overt example of a vicious and cruel level of bullying. Use to discuss the reaction of the bystanders. Use to evoke empathy from students and explain how empathy is a necessary emotion to cause a bystander to become an advocate* and take action on behalf of the victim.  <b>This clip is used in Learning Themes: 1, 2, 4, 6*, and 8</b> <small>*Character Pillar Clip</small>

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### OVERVIEW OF VIDEO CLIPS (continued)

Clip #	Title	Approx. Length	Scene Summary/ Setting the Stage for Student Viewing	Purpose
5	I Treat Others With Dignity, That's What I Do.	4:00	This scene takes place after Karen is the target of a violent bullying attack. Karen's friend Norman goes to get help from Mr. Simon. This scene shows how Mr. Simon compassionately helps Karen and what he says to his class afterwards. Mr. Simon writes an equation for world peace on the board, this equation won him a car in a local competition.	<p>Explain dignity*. Explore the equation "human dignity +compassion = peace".</p> <p><b>This clip is used in Learning Theme: 2*</b></p> <p>*Character Pillar Clip</p>
6	I Am Empathetic, That's What I Am.	1:30	In this scene, which takes place in the middle of the film, you see Norman trying to talk his friend Stanley out of singing in the school talent show.	<p>Show as an example of empathy. Andy and Karen express empathy* for Stanley by supporting him because they can see what this means to him. Karen encourages him to be brave.</p> <p><b>This clip is used in Learning Themes: 1* and 9</b></p> <p>*Character Pillar Clip</p>
7	I Am A Moralist, That's What I Am.	8:00	In this sequence, which takes place toward the middle of the film, you will see several sequential scenes that all follow the progression of a rumor about Mr. Simon.	<p>Show as an example of how rumors and gossip are a form of bullying.</p> <p>Show as an example of morality*. Mr. Simon is committed to doing the right thing and being a positive example for his students. He will not speak to the rumor because he believes that it would empower the bully.</p> <p><b>This clip is used in Learning Themes: 5* and 8</b></p> <p>*Character Pillar Clip</p>

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### OVERVIEW OF VIDEO CLIPS (continued)

Clip #	Title	Approx. Length	Scene Summary/ Setting the Stage for Student Viewing	Purpose
8	<b>I Am Responsible, That's What I Am.</b>	1:30	In this scene, which takes place in the middle of the film, you will see Andy and Stanley working on a class project as partners. Mr. Simon assigned them to work together.	Show as an example of responsibility. Stanley explains that tolerance means it is our responsibility* to let people be who they are.  <b>This clip is used in Learning Themes: 7 and 8*</b>  *Character Pillar Clip
9	<b>I Protect My Friends, That's What I Do.</b>	1:30	In this scene, which takes place in the middle of the film, you will see Andy being bullied by Ricky because Ricky does not want Andy to go steady with his ex-girlfriend, Mary Clear.	Show as an example of how a bystander can calmly react in a bullying situation and that protecting our friends does not mean fighting back with fists.  <b>This clip is used in Learning Themes: 3 and 8</b>
10	<b>I Stand Up Against Bullies, That's What I Do.</b>	2:00	In this scene, which takes place in the middle of the film, you will see Ricky bullying Andy as he tries to stop Andy from going to meet Mary.	Show as an example of bravery. Andy is brave because he has already been bullied once by Ricky, yet still plans to meet Mary. Mary is also an example of a bystander who chooses to stand up for a bullying victim.  <b>This clip is used in Learning Theme: 2</b>
11	<b>I Am A Friend, That's What I Am.</b>	5:00	This scene takes place just before Stanley's talent show performance. You will see Andy protecting Stanley when he notices Ricky getting ready to throw tomatoes at Stanley during the performance.	Show as an example of friendship* and as the "after" example of Andy's progression during the film. Andy befriends Stanley and develops a great level of respect for him. This compels him to take action on Stanley's behalf.  <b>This clip is used in Learning Themes: 3 and 4*</b>  *Character Pillar Clip

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### OVERVIEW OF VIDEO CLIPS (continued)

Clip #	Title	Approx. Length	Scene Summary/ Setting the Stage for Student Viewing	Purpose
12	<b>I Am Courageous, That's What I Am.</b>	3:00	In this scene you will see Stanley performing at the talent show, singing a song he wrote himself.	<p>Show Stanley as an example of courage*. Show how the lyrics of the song address dignity, facing fear, and the importance of being true to who you are.</p> <p><b>This clip is used in Learning Themes: 3* and 9</b></p> <p>*Character Pillar Clip</p>
13	<b>I Have an Identity, I Am Who I Want To Be.</b>	3:00	In this scene, which takes place at the end of the film, you will see Mr. Simon passing back the papers from the class project.	<p>Show how Mr. Simon, Andy, and Stanley are all examples of having a strong sense of identity*. Identity drives their actions and choices.</p> <p><b>This clip is used in Learning Theme: 9*</b></p> <p>*Character Pillar Clip</p>
14	<b>I Am Resilient, That's What I Want to Be.</b>	2:30	In this scene, which takes place at the end of the film, you will see Andy visiting Mr. Simon to ask why he paired him with Stanley. This is the last time Andy will see Mr. Simon since he will not be returning to the school next year.	<p>Show resiliency*. Mr. Simon is a teacher who chooses to resign from his teaching job rather than compromise his values. In this scene we see Mr. Simon stay true to who he is, despite adversity.</p> <p><b>This clip is used in Learning Theme: 8*</b></p>

*A note about the film rating: The film That's What I Am is rated "PG." The Video Clips for use with this instructional program have been altered from the film version to remove language commonly deemed as profane or inappropriate.*