

# Binti

## A Discussion Guide

**Movie Summary:** Binti is a budding YouTube star who dreams of making a permanent home with her Congolese father in Belgium where they live without legal documentation. An incredibly charming cast and energetic storytelling provide a real-world look at immigration that brings a complex issue into relatable focus.

Film Notes: Family feature - Director Frederike Migom | Belgium 2019 | 90 min | Grades 4-8 | In Dutch and French with English subtitles



### Guiding Questions (before you watch):

- What tools do the director and the filmmaker use to engage the viewer in this story?
- How do the filmmakers use social media in the movie - and how are Binti's YouTube posts part of the storytelling?
- Watch for the ways in which Jovial, Binti's father, makes Binti's comfort and happiness a priority in his life.
- Binti and her father join Elias's Okapi Club - how does having a common goal bring people together? And, by the way, what is an okapi?
- This is a story about immigration and the rights of people to live in places where they are not citizens. What do you think the best immigration policies are? Should immigration policy consider family status? How would you do it in an equitable way?



### Reflection Questions (after you watch):

- How do the movie-makers make Binti and her father appealing characters? What techniques did the movie-makers use to engage the audience in the outcome of their difficult situation?
- Critics have called this movie "exuberant" and "hard-hitting". Do you agree with this assessment? Why or why not?
- The filmmakers use color to engage the eye throughout this movie. In what ways do you think color and costume affected the way you experienced the story?
- The actors that play Binti and her father, Jovial, are father and daughter in real life. How do you think this impacted their roles in this film?
- The movie Binti brings together light-hearted joy, love and the very serious issue of immigration. Do you think this movie's portrayal of the issues will change anyone's views about immigration policy? Do you think that was the filmmaker's intent?
- Elias and Christine are generous and take in Jovial and Binti. How would you react if someone showed up in your treehouse?
- Does this movie make you want to address the issue of immigration or refugees? If so, how would you do it?