

Hidden Lives Illuminated: Reflection Guide

THEME: RESTORATIVE JUSTICE

Original *Hidden Lives Illuminated* Films



Jerome L., *Justice*

- Reflecting on dysfunctional communities and growing up in prison, the filmmaker considers what he has learned and how best to lead others from the dark into the light.



Donyea P., *Big Boy Shoes*

- The young filmmaker looks back on his life and forward to a better future for us all. “It’s time to put on those big boy shoes.”



Ezra B., *Phoenix*

- After a life behind bars, the filmmaker reflects on the cultivation of wisdom and the strength to overcome. “I am the phoenix.”



Joseph S., *Furever Homes*

- As the filmmaker says, “Sometimes you save the dog. Sometimes the dog saves you.”



Michael L., *We Can If We Want To*

- The filmmaker looks at the chaos of the world from behind bars and suggests it’s time for change. We can make a better world if we want to.

Student Reflection Questions

- How do the stories in the film challenge or reinforce your views about incarceration and people in prison?
- What role do you think young people can play in addressing some of the issues raised in the films?
- What lessons from the films could apply to resolving conflicts in your own life?
- Write a reflection about how programs like the one in *Furever Homes* could affect a person’s life.