

*Journeys in Film* (Lesson 4)

***On the Way to School* Documentary**

**Lesson Overview:** The following is the second lesson in a series of three for this class which focuses on the documentary: *On the Way to School*. While the first lesson prompted students to make predictions about the film, this lesson focuses on activities that the students will do while actively watching the film. Students will continue reflecting in their journals, and will be led in brief discussions about the themes that develop within the film. They will also reflect on their experience of watching the film.

1. **Pre-Viewing Activity:** Before watching the film, present your student in the journaling prompt:

**What does schooling look like for children in other countries?**

You student, more than likely, will agree that it schooling looks different around the world. Share the linked article below:

➤ [Exploring Schools Around the World](#)

Have them return to their journals, and add more details based on what they read.

2. **Viewing the Documentary:** This film can be viewed for free using the Tubi app. It can also be rented on Youtube and Amazon Prime. Links below.

**Synopsis:** This incredible documentary follows the journeys made by four remarkable children as they strive to improve the lives of themselves and their families through education. From crossing paths with elephants in the savannah of Kenya to trekking the treacherous trails of the Atlas Mountains, from travelling on horseback to being pushed in a makeshift wheelchair, this inspirational film celebrates the determination of young people in far flung corners of the earth to overcome whatever physical obstacles lie in their path in their quest for knowledge.

*On The Way To School*; Directed by Pascal Plisson; France 2013 / Digital/ 1h15m

- [https://tubitv.com/movies/526764/on\\_the\\_way\\_to\\_school?start=true](https://tubitv.com/movies/526764/on_the_way_to_school?start=true)
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vZsEvLaua4w>
- [https://www.amazon.com/Way-School-Jackson-Saikong/dp/B077XKZ4JR/ref=sr\\_1\\_1?dchild=1&keywords=on+the+way+to+school&qid=1602279561&sr=8-1](https://www.amazon.com/Way-School-Jackson-Saikong/dp/B077XKZ4JR/ref=sr_1_1?dchild=1&keywords=on+the+way+to+school&qid=1602279561&sr=8-1)

3. **Active Listening/Watching:** Because the film is subtitled, students may need to access to pausing the film to take notes. A graphic organizer may be helpful in organizing their notes for this part of the lesson. You can print one, or show your student the example below to copy into the journal. As they watch the film, have them take notes on what they notice.

Child's Name	Country (Name, Urban/Rural, etc.)	Details about Journey to School

#### 4. Post-Viewing: Discussion Questions

Have your student reflect on the following questions in their journal/ or feel free to discuss them together.

- Do you think many children across the world have to make journeys similar to this?
- Why are the children's parents so keen for them to make these difficult journeys?
- The children all make their journeys with friends or siblings. Would it be possible for them to make these journeys alone?
- Why are these children so determined to make it to school?
- Is it worth the risks to make these journeys?
- Would you be prepared to go to such lengths to get to school?

#### 5. Conclusion of Lesson 2: Journal Reflection

Have your student write for 2-3 minutes about the impression that was left on them after watching the film. How did it impact them to see the lengths that these children went through to go to school? Did they imagine these specific obstacles were going to a part of these childrens' journeys when they made predictions during the previous lesson? What did they like best about the film? What did they like least? What was something that surprised them?