

Pareil pas pareil [« Alike (but) Not Alike »]

Discussion Guide for community colleges and universities

In this short film, people with intellectual disabilities tell us about their lives.

This guide is for:

- University faculties of Education, Disability Studies, Philosophy
- Community Colleges, for Social Services, Developmental Service Worker, Human Development and related programs
- Professional Development days, Educators' Specialist Conferences (Social Studies, Leadership/Guidance, Civics, Education, Religion), Retreat days.

(All videos and resources in this bilingual kit are available on the English and French sides of larche.ca. Click on “Education” or go directly to www.larche.ca/education/en.)

Suggestions for use:

- A. Watch the filmmaker's introductory video “Producer's Introduction” (4 min.)
- B. Watch one or both parts of the video *Pareil pas Pareil*. Total time: 14 min. The video is in French with easy-to-read English subtitles. Click on CC at the bottom right side of the screen if the English captions do not appear. (To see the captions, use any browser except Explorer.)*

Besides this guide, the following Teaching Resources are available for download:
Transcript of the English text in small and large print versions, Journaling worksheets, “Welcome to Holland” story, “Comments by Jean Vanier” (3 min. video)

Choose among these questions for class or small group discussion:

1. What surprised or touched you, or made you laugh?
2. What did you learn from the members of the cast? Were you more drawn to a certain individual? Why? Will you see people with intellectual disabilities differently, having viewed this video? What did this video say about different ontologies or ways of being in the world? About being human?
3. For private reflection or to share in a small group if you wish: Did any of the cast members remind you of anyone in your own life? Did the content of what they said touch on some aspects

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of your own life experience? If so, did the film in some ways support or validate your experience? How—or how not?

4. The filmmaker, Patrice Paradis, points out that people with intellectual disabilities have things to say and a story to tell us about themselves but that often the rest of us don't think about this or are reluctant to ask them about their lives and opinions. Why do you think this is the case? Are there situations where you can model inviting someone with an intellectual disability to speak about their life?

5. Suffering is a part of the human experience, but suffering is not experienced in a universal way. People with intellectual disabilities have experienced a marginalization and oppression that is socially constructed. What are some ways that the people in the video talk about what they have suffered? What are some of their reactions to that suffering? Why do you think they reacted in this way?

6. Did you learn anything about your own attitudes toward people with intellectual disabilities?

7. Will the film influence how you interact with individuals who have a disability when you encounter them in public? In what ways? And why? In what ways will the *Pareil pas pareil* video impact you in your professional life?

8. How might this film be used to encourage others to respect all members of society equally and to be open to learning from those who have an intellectual disability, to truly seeing them as teachers? What next steps can you commit to as an individual, a class, a department, a school or college or faculty, to make our society more welcoming of all its members?

9. If you watched Part 2 of the video: (a) What is your opinion of the cast members' comments about conflicts and war? (b) To what extent would you agree or disagree with their comments?

10. Watch the video "Comments by Jean Vanier" (3 min). What struck you? Vanier speaks about learning the ways in which people who do not speak communicate. What gift do people such as Raphael bring to others?

* A note to instructors: You may wish to give the students an assignment before they watch the video. The Journaling worksheets may be useful for this.

This guide is part of a kit of educational resources inspired by the vision of L'ARCHE and Jean Vanier, that every person has gifts and a contribution to make to the lives of others and to the quality of our society.

***Pareil pas pareil* is a joint project of L'Arche Canada and the Association des Arches du Québec.**

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