



**#9757**

## **MY MAN BOVANNE**

DIRECT CINEMA, 1986

Grade Levels: 8-11

25 minutes



### **DESCRIPTION**

At a political fundraiser, two older African Americans find romance in spite of interference from one's adult children. Based on a short story by Toni Bambara.

### **ACADEMIC STANDARDS**

#### **Subject Area: Behavioral Studies**

- ★ Standard: Understands conflict, cooperation, and interdependence among individuals, groups, and institutions
  - Benchmark: Understands how tensions might arise between expressions of individuality and group or institutional efforts to promote social conformity (See Instructional Goal #3.)
  - Benchmark: Understands that the decisions of one generation both provide and limit the range of possibilities open to the next generation (See Instructional Goal #2.)
- ★ Standard: Understands various meanings of social group, general implications of group membership, and different ways that groups function
  - Benchmark: Understands how language, literature, the arts, architecture, other artifacts, traditions, beliefs, values, and behaviors contribute to the development and transmission of culture (See Instructional Goal #1.)

### **INSTRUCTIONAL GOALS**

1. To examine how this story transmits African American and American culture.
2. To consider the expectations between different generations in a family.
3. To illustrate how adult children may desire social conformity from their parents more than individual happiness for them.
4. To consider that all people regardless of age should pursue happiness.

## VOCABULARY

1. corn row
2. escort
3. generation gap
4. grassroots
5. grinding (dancing)
6. hustling
7. make yourself at home
8. much obliged
9. rubbing bellies

## BEFORE SHOWING

1. Discuss expectations for attending a party. Consider having your parents at a party with you. List ways that parents could embarrass their children.
2. List your favorite hobbies. Consider if your hobbies will change when you are older.

## AFTER SHOWING

### Discussion Items and Questions

1. How do you know that Mr. Bovanne is blind? Why is he able to move around his home with such ease? How is this different at the party? What does he do to accommodate for his disability?
2. Why did he leave his dog at home? Why is he concerned about his dog dying?
3. What does Mr. Bovanne do and say that show he has a good sense of humor? What do his questions and actions in regard to the skate tell you about him?
4. What kind of party does Mr. Bovanne go to? What is the reason for the party? Who is there? What are they doing?
5. What do Mrs. Peoples and Mr. Bovanne have in common? How do they enjoy themselves at the party?
6. What do Mrs. Peoples' children have a problem with? What do they want their mother to do? What is her response?

### Applications and Activities

1. Read "My Man Bovanne" by Toni Cade Bambara. Compare the short story with the video.
2. Interview adults who are older than you. Ask them how they have personally changed since they were your age and what they would advise you to remember as you become older.
3. Research discrimination. List rights that should be given to all people regardless of their age, sex, race, religion, or sexual orientation.
4. Write a letter from Mrs. Peoples to her children. Consider the years she raised her children, her hopes for the future, and her respect of her children's rights to live their own lives.

## RELATED RESOURCES



- [A Late Frost: Reflections on Aging #8136](#)
- [Louisville #9559](#)
- [Mirrors and Windows: Shattering Stereotypes #3489](#)



## World Wide Web

The following Web sites complement the contents of this guide; they were selected by professionals who have experience in teaching deaf and hard of hearing students. Every effort was made to select accurate, educationally relevant, and “kid safe” sites. However, teachers should preview them before use. The U.S. Department of Education, the National Association of the Deaf, and the Captioned Media Program do not endorse the sites and are not responsible for their content.

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- **THE LITERARY DIRECTORY: TONI CADE BAMBARA**

<http://www.allianceforlifelonglearning.org/er/tree.jsp?c=42718>

This scholarly site provides not only biography and bibliography information about the author, but also an on-line version of one of her other short stories.

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- **THE INTERNET SCHOOL LIBRARY MEDIA CENTER AGEISM PAGE**

<http://falcon.jmu.edu/~ramseyil/ageism.htm>

This searchable mega-site is designed to bring together educational resources for preview by teacher, librarians, parents, and students. Includes general resources, ERIC resources, bibliographies, and lesson plans related to ageism.