



Discussion Guide: A Most Beautiful Thing

A MOST BEAUTIFUL THING is narrated by the Academy-Award/Grammy-winning artist, Common; executive-produced by NBA Stars Grant Hill and Dwyane Wade along with Grammy-award winning producer 9th Wonder; and directed by award-winning filmmaker (and Olympic rower) Mary Mazzio. The film chronicles the first African American high school rowing team in this country (made up of young men, many of whom were in rival gangs from the West Side of Chicago), all coming together to row in the same boat. An amazing story, based on the memoir of team captain, Arshay Cooper.

Take advantage of the teachable moments presented in *A Most Beautiful* by using these questions to help guide a discussion with your team.

- 1.) What role did rowing play in helping battle racism for Arshay and the team? If it did not help fight stereotypes and battle racism, why not?
- 2.) The black rowing team is led by a white coach. Discuss this relationship.
- 3.) How was rowing used to overcome the gang violence on the west side of Chicago?
- 4.) At the end of the film, the rowing team films some footage and eventually rows alongside the Chicago Police? What is the impact of this?
- 5.) How did rowing help these young men overcome the trauma in their lives?
- 6.) In what ways do you see this movie moving the needle for the sport of rowing at large? How might it encourage diversity in the sport moving forward?

