



Questions About Justice and Judgment

- 1. Why do you believe Hilly has the need to hurt others throughout the film?
- 2. Does Minny's pie bring justice for herself and/or the other maids? Explain.
- 3. Do believe Jackson will become a more just society as a result of the book the *Help*? Explain.
- 4. What price do the people in this film pay when they confront the injustice of racism?
- 5. In the movie one of the maids is quoted as saying "courage isn't just about being brave." What do you think was meant by this?
- 6. In the movie (but not the book) Skeeter's Mother, Charlotte Phelan, says "Courage sometimes skips a generation." Do you agree? What's the basis for your belief and Charlotte's statement?

Questions About Society and Class

- 7. Celia doesn't even seem aware of false stereotypes about black people. Why?
- 8. Do you think that if had Aibileen stayed working for Miss Elizabeth, that Mae Mobley would have grown up to be racist like her mother? Do you think racism is inherent, or taught?
- 9. How does Celia Foote challenge the definition of "woman" in Jackson? Why is it that Jackson's women have a problem with her, while Jackson's men don't?
- 10. *The Help* has been a very successful best selling book. If the author had been black, how would the book have been received? Would it still have been a best seller?



Minny



Hilly



Celia



Skeeter

Film Extension Activity- Apply to today

While what was happening around Skeeter was wrong, especially by today's standards, in Jackson, Mississippi, in the 1960s many of Skeeter's peers accepted the uneven treatment of white and black people. The Civil Rights Movement during the 1950s and 1960s helped change some of the laws in the United States preventing racial inequality. However, inequality still exists on some levels in the United States and all over the world, whether racially, socially, between different religions and many other ways.

Directions: Use one of the prompts below to discuss inequality around you and consider ways to make an impact in your community to change it for the better. After viewing the film and having explored this topic in our history course. Select ONE of the prompts below and write a ½ page response, citing real life examples in the space below

1. Have you witnessed unequal treatment of people around you? Who is being treated differently? Why do you think people treat this person or this group of people differently?

2. Have you ever treated a person differently than others based on the way they look or because of their beliefs? Why?

3. Have you ever been treated differently than others? Why? How did this different treatment make you feel?

4. If you've ever been treated differently than others based on gender, race or religious beliefs, how did you deal with this unequal treatment? What was the outcome?

