

A
Johnson & Johnson

SPOTLIGHT PRESENTATION™

GIFTED HANDS:

The Ben Carson Story

BASED ON A TRUE STORY



WE KNOW DRAMA™

Dear Educator,

Gifted Hands: The Ben Carson Story, a JOHNSON & JOHNSON SPOTLIGHT PRESENTATION® airing on TNT on February 7, 2009 at 8PM Eastern/7PM Central starring Cuba Gooding Jr., is the true story of a family's struggle, perseverance, and the relentless pursuit of a dream. This original television film about Ben Carson, an African-American boy who rose from poverty to become one of this country's premier neurosurgeons, presents a truly compelling story that will inspire your students to recognize their talents and overcome obstacles to follow their dreams.

To celebrate the achievement of Dr. Ben Carson, TNT and JOHNSON & JOHNSON have developed this poster study

guide to enrich your students' viewing of *Gifted Hands*. This study guide features lessons in English/language arts and social studies and a poster which can be integrated into your class's celebration of Black History Month. Activities include writing, research, and discussion. You and your students do not need to see *Gifted Hands* to use these activities, but viewing the film will enhance student understanding.

Also, included in this packet is a letter from Dr. Ben Carson to your students. Please photocopy the letter and distribute it to each student. Make sure they share the letter with their parents.

We urge you to share this exciting program with other teachers in your school. Although the materials are copyrighted, you have permission to reproduce them for educational purposes. And please return the enclosed reply card to let us know your opinion of the guide. We depend on your feedback to continue providing free educational programs that make a real difference in the classroom.

We are sure these materials will help you explore a compelling individual, Dr. Ben Carson, and serve as a perfect educational vehicle during Black History Month.

Sincerely,



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ABOUT THE TELEVISION FILM

Based on the book, *Gifted Hands: The Ben Carson Story*, written by Dr. Ben Carson with Cecil Murphey, the film, starring Cuba Gooding Jr., takes the audience on a journey through Ben Carson's life. We meet Ben as a struggling fifth grader in an inner-city Detroit school. Abandoned by his father at a young age and pushed by his mother to succeed despite racial prejudices, Ben's determination helps him overcome immeasurable challenges. Ben graduates third in his high school class and receives a scholarship to Yale University, where he discovers that he has the dedication, intelligence, and a special gift to become a neurosurgeon. Again overcoming obstacles, Ben faces the biggest challenge of his life in 1987, separating two cranially-conjoined infants while dealing with a personal tragedy of his own.

For more information on the film *Gifted Hands*, visit www.tnt.tv/giftedhands.com.

Watch
*Gifted Hands:
The Ben Carson Story*,
premiering
February 7, 2009
at 8/7c on



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PROGRAM COMPONENTS

- This teacher's guide
- Two reproducible student activities
- A colorful wall poster
- Letter from Dr. Ben Carson to your students
- A reply card for your important feedback

PROGRAM OBJECTIVES

- To explore the challenges and accomplishments of Dr. Ben Carson.
- To help students identify attributes that help them succeed and persons who are influential in their lives.
- To foster student exploration and demonstration of their talents and special gifts.
- To promote the story of Dr. Ben Carson and create interest in the film, *Gifted Hands*.

TARGET AUDIENCE

This program has been designed for grades 3-6 as an enhancement to the language arts and social studies curriculum.

HOW TO USE THIS PROGRAM

- Display the poster before beginning Activity 1 to introduce the program and generate student interest.

- Review, photocopy, and distribute the reproducible activity sheets. At the same time, make a master copy of the complete program to share with other teachers in your school.
- Photocopy and distribute the letter from Dr. Ben Carson to each student.
- Encourage students and their parents to see *Gifted Hands* on TNT, as a complement to this unit of study.

STANDARDS ALIGNMENT

Activities 1 and 2 meet the following National Education Standards. Students will:

- Conduct research on issues and interests by generating ideas and questions. Gather, evaluate, and synthesize data from a variety of sources.
- Employ a wide range of strategies as they write and use different writing elements to communicate with different audiences for a variety of purposes.
- Understand major discoveries in science and technology, some of their social and economic effects, and the major scientists and inventors responsible for them.

ABOUT BEN CARSON

Raised in inner-city Detroit by a mother with a third-grade education, Ben Carson lacked motivation. He had terrible grades. And a pathological temper threatened to put him in jail. But Sonya Carson convinced her son that he could make something of his life, even though everything around him said otherwise. Trust in his faith, a relentless belief in his own capabilities, and sheer determination catapulted Ben from failing grades to the top of his class—and beyond—to a Yale scholarship...the University of Michigan Medical School...and finally, at age 33, the directorship of pediatric neurosurgery at Johns Hopkins Hospital in Baltimore, Maryland. Today, Dr. Ben Carson holds 20 honorary doctorates and is the possessor of a long string of honors and awards, including the Horatio Alger Award, induction into the "Great Blacks in Wax" Museum in Baltimore, Maryland, and an invitation as Keynote Speaker at the 1997 President's National Prayer Breakfast.

ACTIVITY 1: WHO CHANGED YOUR LIFE?

Part A: Discuss the role that Ben Carson's mother, Sonya, played in his life, how she instilled values like determination and dedication in her children, and lived by those attributes in her own life. Review Sonya's values on the activity sheet. Ask students to think about someone who has made a positive difference in their life, write that person's name in the center of the circle, and complete the web by writing the person's attributes on the lines attached to the circle.

Part B: Ask students to write a thank-you note to their special person describing the attributes that set them apart and detailing the person's positive impact on their lives.

Parent Connection: Ask students to interview their parents about a special person who made an impact in their lives. Have students write five questions to ask their parents and record their answers on the back of the activity sheet. Ask students to bring back their findings to class and hold a special *Gifted Hands Day* where students can share their interviews.

ACTIVITY 2: GIFTED HANDS

Part A: Review the introduction and discuss how Dr. Ben Carson's surgical innovations have saved lives and made medical history. Lead students through the questions on the activity sheet to help them determine their talents and how they can put them to good use.

Part B: Have students describe their unique talents and how they can benefit others in an Acrostic Poem, using each letter in their name as the first letter in each line of the poem. For example: **B**en
Binder Twins
Extraordinary eye-hand coordination
Neurosurgeon

After students have viewed the film, conduct a class discussion asking them to compare their attributes and talents to those of Dr. Ben Carson.

Parent Connection: Have students explore their parent's talents and how they use them. Encourage students to discuss how they can utilize their family's talents to improve their communities. Ask students to trace their hand and write ways they'll use these talents to improve their school and/or community inside the hand. Display the students' "gifted hands" around the poster.

EXTENSION ACTIVITIES

- Hold a *Gifted Hands Day* where students can demonstrate their talents and share how they can use these special qualities to make a difference.
- Discuss the phrase "Think Big" and how Dr. Ben Carson uses the phrase to define the values he lived by—Talent, Honesty, Insight, Be Nice, Knowledge, Books, In-Depth Learning, and God. Ask students to create their own inspirational wall hanging to bring home and post on their refrigerator.
- After watching the film, ask students to list obstacles Dr. Ben Carson had to overcome and consider stumbling blocks they've encountered on the way to achieving their goal. Ask students to use their imaginations and come up with ways to overcome these obstacles and achieve their own dreams.
- Celebrate Black History Month by researching other famous Black Americans and their contributions. Create portraits detailing their lives and achievements.

RESOURCES

Websites

Gifted Hands on TNT

www.tnt.tv/giftedhands

Religion & Ethics Newsweekly section of the PBS website, featuring Dr. Ben Carson

www.pbs.org/wnet/religionandethics/week1119/profile.html

www.pbs.org/wnet/religionandethics/week1119/interview.html

Interview and Biography of Dr. Ben Carson from Academy of Achievement

www.achievement.org/autodoc/page/car1int-1

www.achievement.org/autodoc/page/car1bio-1

Ben Carson Story from YouTube

www.youtube.com/watch?v=9haZDohtYbc

Books

Gifted Hands: The Ben Carson Story, by Ben Carson and Cecil B. Murphey, Zondervan, 1990

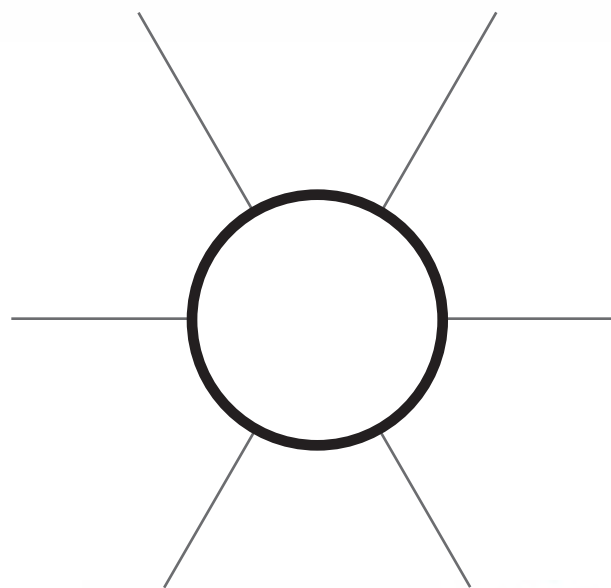
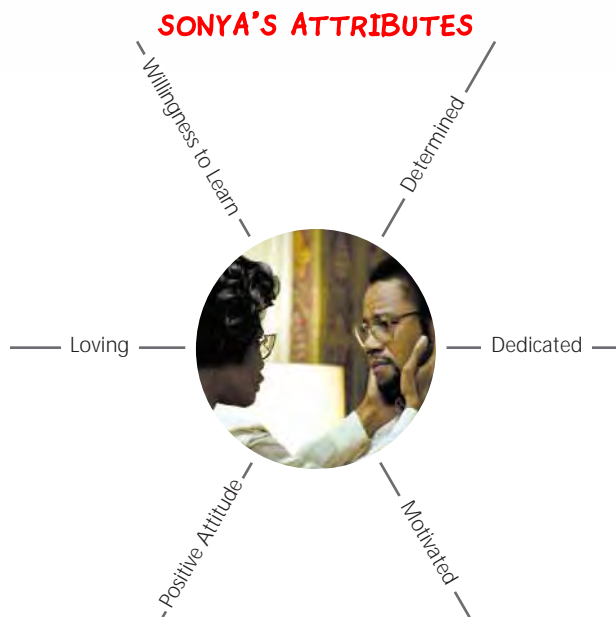
Think Big: Unleashing Your Potential for Excellence, by Ben Carson, M.D. and Cecil B. Murphey, Zondervan, 1996

The Big Picture, by Ben Carson and Gregg Lewis, Zondervan, 2000

ACTIVITY I: WHO CHANGED YOUR LIFE?

A JOHNSON & JOHNSON SPOTLIGHT PRESENTATION®, *Gifted Hands: The Ben Carson Story*, airing on TNT on February 7, 2009 at 8PM Eastern/7PM Central starring Cuba Gooding Jr., is the true story of a family's struggle. Ben's mother, Sonya, pushes him to succeed and won't let him give up. She knows that determination, self-respect, and education are the keys to success. Following her own philosophy, she learned to read later in life while serving as a cleaning lady for a professor.

PART A: Review Sonya's attributes below that helped her succeed. Then, think about someone in your life who has inspired you to succeed. Was it a family member, teacher, coach, or someone in your community? Write that person's name in the circle. Record the attributes that make this person special and a positive influence in your life on the lines around the circle.



PART B: Write your special person a thank-you note describing what they have done to influence you and make a difference in your life!

PARENT CONNECTION: Interview your parents about a special person who made an impact in their lives. Write five questions to ask your parents and record their thoughts and stories about their special individual on the back of the activity sheet. Be sure to bring back your findings to share with the class.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____



WATCH **GIFTED HANDS**, A JOHNSON & JOHNSON SPOTLIGHT PRESENTATION®, PREMIERING FEBRUARY 7, 2009 on TNT at 8PM EASTERN/7PM CENTRAL.

ACTIVITY 2: GIFTED HANDS

Ben Carson had not only the dedication and intelligence but also two special talents—extraordinary hand-eye coordination and unusual depth perception—that led to his successful career as a neurosurgeon. In *Gifted Hands: The Ben Carson Story*, you will learn how Ben Carson's special talents helped others and made a difference in people's lives.

PART A: Everyone's talents are different and each one of us has the opportunity to give a valuable gift to people around us. Think about your own talents. What makes you unique? How can your talents be used? Complete the following questions.

1. What do you enjoy doing? _____
2. What are your talents? _____
3. What do you consider your most important talent? _____
4. How could you use your talent to help someone else? _____
5. Why is it important to share your talents with others? _____

PART B: Describe your talents and what makes you special in an Acrostic Poem, using the letters of your first name to start each line of the poem. Add more lines if you need to.

PARENT CONNECTION: After seeing *Gifted Hands: The Ben Carson Story* with your family, ask them to describe their talents and how they are putting them to use. Discuss ways you and your family members use their talents to make a difference in your community.



WATCH **GIFTED HANDS**, A JOHNSON & JOHNSON SPOTLIGHT PRESENTATION®, PREMIERING FEBRUARY 7, 2009 on TNT at 8PM EASTERN/7PM CENTRAL.

Benjamin S. Carson, Sr., M.D.
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Dear Students:

I hope you will have a chance to see the movie entitled "Gifted Hands" or at least be scheduled to see it soon. This is the depiction of my life with special emphasis on some of the problems that I faced when I was your age. I hope that through this movie and the educational material that accompanies it, you will be able to realize that the person who has the most to do with what happens to you in life is you. We all face difficulties and challenges, but there are ways to overcome them. Our nation cannot afford to waste any intellectual capital, and we need all of you to develop your brains to help solve the problems we currently face as well as the problems of the future. I hope you will take seriously this opportunity you have to learn more about your own potential and to take advantage of relationships you have with your family, friends, and teachers to become a stellar member of our society.

My very best wishes to you in all of your future endeavors.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "B.S. Carson", written in a cursive style.

Benjamin S. Carson, Sr., M.D.
The Benjamin S. Carson, Sr., M.D. and
Dr. Evelyn Spiro, R.N. Professor of Pediatric Neurosurgery
Director of Pediatric Neurosurgery
Professor of Neurological Surgery, Oncology,
Plastic Surgery, and Pediatrics

CELEBRATE YOUR GIFTS

“IF WE RECOGNIZE OUR TALENTS AND USE THEM APPROPRIATELY,
AND CHOOSE A FIELD THAT USES THOSE TALENTS, WE WILL RISE TO
THE TOP OF OUR FIELD.”

— DR. BEN CARSON

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