

ACTIVITY 6 ANSWERS

As you watched the film, what roles did you see boys and girls taking?

Almost all of the leadership roles that were shown in the film were adult males in the movement. The film shows that it was the school girls who were the leaders in the children's movement. They were the ones who got the boys involved.

Were their roles different or similar? How so?

Several of the boys in the film said that they got involved in the movement because they were interested in the girls. That demeans the courage and intelligence of the girls and women involved in the movement. The film showed only boys driving cars. The "tough" boys on the corner were portrayed as boys who wanted only to fight.

Who is leading whom at what time? Why?

The girls seem to lead the children's movement.
The men seem to lead the adult movement.

How is each gender represented?

The film seems to portray that the adult men led and organized the movement and the adult women supported them.

How do these gender roles in the film compare to who leads at your own school?

In some ways gender roles seem to have changed some because at our school boys and girls alike are in leadership roles. But in other ways, gender roles seem firmly rooted. For instance, girl cheerleaders are still rooting for our boys' sports teams, but there aren't boy cheerleaders rooting for our girls' teams. Boys who take home economic classes get teased because those are considered "girl" classes. Girls aren't encouraged to take shop or automotive classes at our school. We have come a long way, but there is still much to work on before there is equity among the genders.

Who in your school or community are the leaders? Are they males or females?

Both genders have leadership roles in many things in our community. There still is, in most communities, a larger number of men in leadership roles though. For instance, there are more congressional men than there are congressional women. And, sadly, women are rarely even considered as presidential candidates. There are more men executives than women executives.

What do you think is meant by "strong women" and "gentle men"?

Often society coaches men to be strong and women to be gentle. These are what are called "gender norms." Gender norms tell us that boys are tough and that girls are made of "sugar and spice and everything nice." In reality, attributes are not male or female but are, instead, human. All genders can be all things.