Enrich your learning with movies and documentaries in conjunction with this DVD Learning Guide! Simply rent or purchase the media, then use this guide to teach this film’s topics!

1. RENT
2. WATCH
3. LEARN!

Each DVD Learning Guide Includes:
- Vocabulary from the Film
- Discussion Questions based on Film Content
- Lesson Plans and Activities
- Related Books and Online Resources

Links to Netflix and Amazon included!
Stand and Deliver (1988)
A Homeschool Learning Network® Learning Guide

Format: DVD
Age Levels: Middle School, High School
Genre: Drama
Category: Mathematics; Ethics & Morals
Rating: PG
Length: 103 minutes
Producer: Warner Brothers
Warnings: No warnings

Summary
Stand and Deliver is a moving and inspirational true story about a teacher and his students. A math teacher, Jaime Escalante, believes that if you expect greatness from your students and dedicate yourself to that, you will achieve your goals. Throughout the movie, he cajoles, inspires, and even sometimes threatens his inner-city Latin American students to strive towards a particular goal—the goal of passing the National Advanced Placement Calculus Exam. At the beginning, the students are uninspired, and barely understand fractions—yet at the end, see what they can do! Can the world, and the Educational Testing Service, believe that these kids can really do it? Witness the trials, tribulations and victories of this tough bunch, led by an even more tough and determined teacher.

Vocabulary (Grades 1-12)

Try the following activities with the vocabulary words to the right. Depending on the age and ability of your students, they may be able to complete assignments from multiple grade levels.

6-8: Write a description or review about this DVD using the vocabulary words. Above each vocabulary word, write N if it is a noun, V if it is a verb; ADJ if it is an adjective; ADV if it is an adverb.

6-12: Copy the vocabulary words onto a sheet of paper. What do you think each word means? Write down what you think the words mean from your own knowledge. Now, look up each word in a dictionary, and compare definitions. How close were you? Write each word in a sentence, or write a paragraph or DVD summary using the words.

9-12: Write down words you hear in the video you don’t understand. Break the words into parts and see if you can determine the meanings. Look up the meanings.

Vocabulary
Hispanic
Latino
Heritage
Scoring
Ganas
Expectations
Calculus
AP
Racism
Overt
Covert

Discussion Questions

Ask students to read through their questions carefully before watching the film, and take notes during the film. After watching it, ask students to write their answers to the following questions on a separate piece of paper.

Intermediate

1. Describe the character of Angel. Why does he act the way he does?
2. Describe the character of Mr. Escalante. What are some of his positive traits? What mistakes did he make during this movie?
3. Do you think that Mr. Escalante treated Angel fairly throughout the movie? Why or why not?
4. “Ganos”, or desire, is introduced as a Spanish word that Mr. Escalante urges his students with. Why does he do this, and how does it inspire the students?
5. Mr. Escalante had high expectations of his students. Who in the movie had low expectations of the students?
6. The students gave up weekends and vacations to study. Why did they do that? Could you be inspired to?
7. At any point in the movie did you think that the students cheated on their exam? Why do you think that the Educational Testing Service did? Did they have any just reasoning?
8. Mr. Escalante’s wife became frustrated and worried about her husband and his involvement in the class. Why? Was it justified?

Advanced

1. What was the theme of Stand and Deliver? What message was the filmmaker trying to get across?
2. Who was your favorite character in the movie? Your least favorite? Why?
3. Do you think that the students should have retaken the test? Why do you think they did?
4. Why do you think Mr. Escalante is a good role model for teachers? For students? Have you had such role models throughout your schooling?
5. In the end, the students accomplished a great thing. How could that positively affect their lives?
6. What did you learn by watching Stand and Deliver?
Lessons & Activities

Analyzing Education Statistics

Subjects: Mathematics, Social Sciences
Grades: 6-12
Style: Visual/Experiential/Kinesthetic

Concepts:
Students will analyze data from the National Center of Education Statistics in order to practice math skills and understand general education statistics in the U.S.

Lesson:
In this movie, you witness the Educational Testing Service’s prejudice about the scoring rates of Hispanics on achievement tests. But in actuality, what are the true differences of white, black and Hispanic dropout rates and test scores? Use the following charts to gain an understanding about real facts and figures from the National Center of Education Statistics.

Chart four paths on the graph below, as noted by the colors beneath the chart. You will find the data for this at: http://nces.ed.gov/pubs2002/digest2001/tables/dt108.asp. Chart the dropout rate for whites, blacks and Hispanics throughout the years listed on the graph.

After you have completed the chart, spend some time analyzing the data. Write a brief summary below the chart, or on a separate piece of paper, write an essay about what you have discovered, and your speculation about the reasons the figures are what they are.

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Black: All Races
Red: White, Non-Hispanic
Blue: Black, non-Hispanic
Green: Hispanic
Summarize your findings.


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**Black:** All Races  
**Red:** White, Non-Hispanic  
**Blue:** Black, non-Hispanic  
**Green:** Hispanic

Summarize your findings.
Learn More!   Books and Online Resources

BOOKS

Escalante: The Best Teacher in America (An Owl Book)
Jay Mathews, Henry Holt (Paper); ISBN: 0805011951

Jaime Escalante: Sensational Teacher (Hispanic Biographies)

Jaime Escalante: Inspiring Educator (Great Hispanics of Our Time)

ONLINE RESOURCES

National Center for Education Statistics
http://nces.ed.gov/
This is the official government site that lists thousands of school statistics of every possible variety. It is an excellent research starting point.

Teaching With Movies: Stand and Deliver
Find discussion questions and projects within this thorough study guide.

Reason Online: Stand and Deliver Revisited
Read this article about the true Escalante, and what happened in the years following the events of this movie.

Mental Models
This resource provides some information on the power of mental models.

Stand and Deliver Review
Read the review from “Grading the Movies”. It provides an in-depth look at the movie from an educational perspective.

Jaime Escalante
Read a biography about this inspirational teacher.
Jaime Escalante Math & Science Program
Explore this brief description of the math and science program modeled after Escalante’s work in LA.

Ideas & Energy: Stand and Deliver
An interesting look at the power of the movie, reflections about Hispanic culture, and teen issues.
DISCUSSION QUESTIONS ANSWER KEY:

Intermediate

1. He is constantly getting into trouble, and trying to get himself out of it. His intentions are good—he has loyalty to his family, and it seems that he is constantly struggling to fit into his tough world while knowing he has higher goals that he would like to obtain.

2. Mr. Escalante inspired his students with tenacity and belief that they could do this, and used creative ways to teach them. He was also dedicated to them, and gave up as much time as they did towards his goal. Sometimes, he was harsh on the students, and did not leave a lot of leeway for their personal struggles.

3. Mr. Escalante did not always give Angel room for who he was, and the struggles he faced with his family or friends. He punished Angel, and threatened that he could not return to the program. However, Angel persisted and completed the work. It was a good lesson for Mr. Escalante to move away from “black and white” thinking.

4. He does this because he has high expectations for his students. He believes in them, and believes that they can believe in themselves if they can dedicate themselves to learning. Without the desire for something greater in life than the immediate future, the students will not succeed.

5. The head of the math department had low expectations, and thought that what Mr. Escalante was doing was a waste of time. The students also had low expectations of themselves at the beginning of the movie.

6. They did that because they were inspired by Mr. Escalante’s belief that they could do it. They wanted to prove their ability to themselves, and they did not want to disappoint Mr. Escalante.

7. Answers will vary; The ETS believed they cheated because the scoring for such low-income inner city schools was never that high. It was unjust for them to do that simply because of that statistic, and they could have easily justified the scores by interviewing the teacher and finding out more about their learning process, without asking them to take the test again.

8. Yes, in many ways it was justified, especially because of what we witness Mr. Escalante’s minor heart attack. She is worried both about the health of her husband, and the amount of time he was dedicating to the class rather than his family.

Advanced

1. Answers will vary. This is a classic “man against himself” theme.

2. Answers will vary.

3. Answers will vary.

4. Yes, he is an excellent role model for teachers, to show them dedication and belief in their students, and an excellent role model for his students for the same reasons. He shows them the value and success of believing in something and following through with it at all costs.

5. Answers will vary.

6. Answers will vary.
More CLASSICS DVD Learning Guides available at www.hlfnfamily-estore.com:

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- Dumbo
- Ice Age
- James and the Giant Peach
- A Little Princess
- A Man for All Seasons
- A Walk to Remember
- Animal Farm
- Annie Get Your Gun
- Ben-Hur
- Chariots of Fire
- Citizen Kane
- Clash of the Titans
- Dr. Strangelove, Or: How I Learned to Stop Worrying and Love the Bomb
- Driving Miss Daisy
- Emma
- Fiddler on the Roof
- Fly Away Home
- Guilty By Suspicion
- Lawrence of Arabia
- Mr. Smith Goes to Washington
- My Fair Lady
- Never Cry Wolf
- Old Yeller
- One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest
- Perfect Storm
- Pride and Prejudice - Disc 1 & 2
- Pygmalion
- Return to Oz
- Stand and Deliver
- Swiss Family Robinson
- The Black Stallion
- The Black Stallion Returns
- The Parent Trap
- The Railway Children
- The Rookie
- The Sound of Music
- Walt Disney Treasures: Davy Crockett 1&2
- 12 Angry Men
- Anne Frank
- Bronte Country
- Charlotte Bronte's Jane Eyre
- David Copperfield
- Don Quixote
- Great Expectations
- King Lear
- Little House on the Prairie, Premiere Movie
- Lord of the Rings: Fellowship of the Ring
- Moby Dick
- National Geographic Beyond the Movie: Lord of the Ring: Fellowship of Ring
- Nicholas Nickleby - Disc 1 - 4
- Shakespeare Tragedies: Origins & Style
- Shakespeare Tragedies: Othello, Macbeth, King Lear
- Shakespeare Tragedies: Titus Andronicus, Romeo & Juliet, and Hamlet
- The Chronicles of Narnia - Disc 1 - 3
- The Great Gatsby
- William Shakespeare: Romeo & Juliet
- To Kill a Mockingbird