

**Overview:** Based on the book *The Help* by Kathryn Stockett, this movie focuses on the unlikely friendship between Skeeter, a white woman, who returns home from college and several black maids in the South during the 1960's. Skeeter snags a job at the local newspaper, writing a cleaning column and soon turns to housemaids Aibileen and Minny for help. Skeeter becomes much more interested in the experience of what it feels like to be a black maid for white families. Understandably, the maids are hesitant to talk, fearing they'd lose their jobs, or lives. Skeeter makes it her duty to gather, write and tell the stories from the help's perspective, despite the controversy and risk. The amount of courage it takes for both the housemaids and the writer to participate in this project is immense.

**Moral of the Story:** We all face challenging circumstances in life and we all must find our inner courage to get through them and take something bigger away from these situations. While it's not always easy, those who have the confidence to be courageous and do what's right in the face of fear, triumph.

### Selected Scenes

Scenes 4-5 (26:00 – 46:04)	20 minutes
Scene 8 (1:07:13 – 1:13:36)	6 minutes
Scene 9 (1:19:45 – 1:24:33)	5 minutes
Scenes 9-10 (1:28:33 – 1:40:47)	12 minutes
Scene 13 (1:55:50 – 2:05:38)	<u>10 minutes</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b>52 minutes</b>

### Discussion Questions

- 1) In scene 4, at the party, Skeeter observes her “friends” talking down to the help and discussing separate but equal facilities. Why do you think Skeeter had such a different point of view than the people she grew up with? What was inside her that made her want to change things?
- 2) In scene 5, Aibileen attends church. The pastor preaches that “Courage ain’t just about being brave; courage is there to do what is right in spite of the weakness of our flesh.” How do you think this message impacted Aibileen?
- 3) Skeeter is determined to write a book from the point of view of “the help.” She’s faced with the difficulty of getting housemaids to agree to be interviewed, while also keeping her subjects and stories confidential from the rest of the community. If you were in Skeeter’s shoes, would you have enough courage to go against everything your community believes?
- 4) At first, Aibileen and Minny are skeptical to participate in Skeeter’s project. What changes their minds? How does this affect Skeeter’s progress? What did this prompt her to do? Given the times and the reality, would you have had the courage to get involved with the book?
- 5) In scene 13, Skeeter’s mother states that, “Courage sometimes skips a generation, thank you for bringing it back to our family.” Explain how courage connects to Skeeter pursuing her career in New York, Skeeter’s mother standing up for her daughter, and her decision “not to die.”