

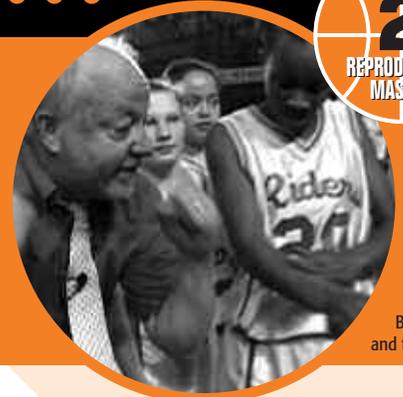
# A TEST OF CHARACTER

**“It’s not about winning and losing, but about how hard you tried, how you overcome obstacles emotionally, how you rely on other girls and how they rely on you.”**

– Coach Bill Resler



Cheering the team to victory



Bill Resler and the team

**PART A.** The real-life teens in Miramax Films’ *The Heart of the Game* exhibit strong character under difficult circumstances.

The **Roosevelt Roughriders** girls’ basketball team agrees to allow Darnellia (dar-NEE-lee-uh) Russell to play on the team in the state championship even though it means that they may have to later forfeit these games.

**Coach Bill Resler** puts every player on his team into the state championship game instead of only using his best players—espousing his philosophy that teamwork is more important than winning.

**Darnellia Russell** has the courage to go to a school out of her neighborhood. She comes back to school after missing a year, deals with legal issues surrounding her ability to play, leads her team to a basketball championship, and graduates with honors.

Think about a difficult situation in the life of someone close to you, where strength of character was key.

What was the situation? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

What choice did that person make that displayed character? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

What was the outcome? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

What different outcome might have occurred if he or she had made another choice? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Given the perspective of time, would the choice have been the same today? Explain. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**PART B.** Many sports heroes and popular entertainers are considered role models in our society. As a group, choose a famous person who is *widely considered* a role model.

Consider the traits of good character—*trustworthiness, fairness, respect, caring, responsibility and citizenship*—when discussing the following questions:

- What character traits went into your decision? What actions?
- Who is presenting this person to the public as a role model?
- Is it fair to expect a person with unusual athletic or performing abilities to serve as a role model? Why or why not?
- What are the risks when an athlete or performer demonstrates inappropriate character traits?
- Does it matter to you if a role model is male or female? Why or why not?
- Choose another famous person that your group considers a role model and answer the questions above. How do your answers differ?



Future members of the Inner Circle

Look for **THE HEART OF THE GAME** coming to a theater near you this summer.

Go to [www.heartofthegame-film.com](http://www.heartofthegame-film.com) to find out when the film is coming to your area or for group sales information.