

## The Princess and the Frog

MPAA Rating: G

What Parents Need to Know from Common Sense Media

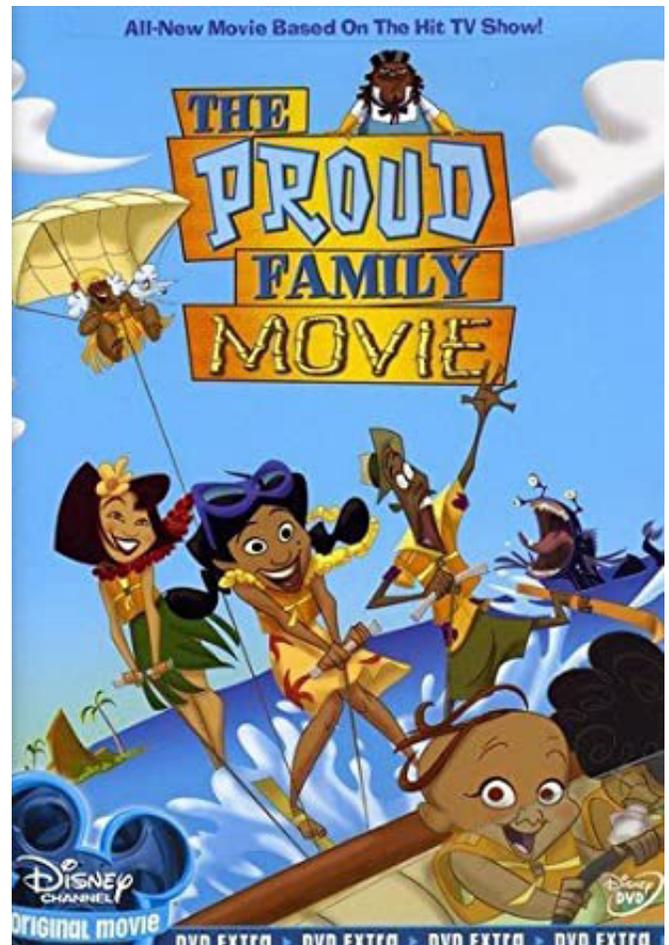
Parents need to know that *The Princess and the Frog* is Disney's first movie to feature an African American heroine, Tiana. The New Orleans-set story is a spin on the classic fairy tale about the princess who finds true love when she kisses an enchanted amphibian, but there's more to this tale than just romance: Tiana is a resourceful, hardworking heroine who's a strong role model and is one of the first Disney heroines who doesn't have to be rescued by a man. While some have been concerned that the movie might reinforce stereotypes -- and it's true that many of the supporting characters feel shallow (and the movie's voodoo subplot is far from subtle) -- overall the film does a good job of adding diversity to Disney's hit parade. But while the movie is kid-friendly on the whole, the villain and his shadowy spirit henchmen can be quite scary, and one important character does die, which makes it a little too intense for the youngest viewers.

## The Proud Family Movie

MPAA Rating: G

What Parents Need to Know from Common Sense Media

Parents need to know that this movie features a teen girl at the height of her parental rebellion, and her parents (who engage in non-stop insults to each other on the side) are unwilling to just go along with her whims. Penny's biggest dream is rather small: to become a backup dancer for a rapper, along with her three friends. The rapper's lifestyle is meant to be enviable, with his Hummer and yacht, but humor defuses the image to some extent. Cloning is a major theme, but any discussion of ethical or moral implications is absent.





## Ruby Bridges

MPAA Rating: N/R

### What Parents Need to Know from Common Sense Media

Parents need to know that the true story behind Ruby Bridges is inspiring but may be too emotionally intense for younger kids. Ruby was only 6 years old when she became the first African American child to attend an all-white school in New Orleans in 1960, yet she withstood daily threats and insults as she entered school, and had to be escorted by armed guards. Most viewers will find the scenes of adults threatening and name-calling a first-grader disturbing, and kids could be frightened by the cruelty of the racism on display. This includes blunt racist insults and taunts, including the “N” word and other slurs. The film also has a strong Christian message of the power of faith and belief in Jesus, although characters also question the portrayal of Jesus as a white man.

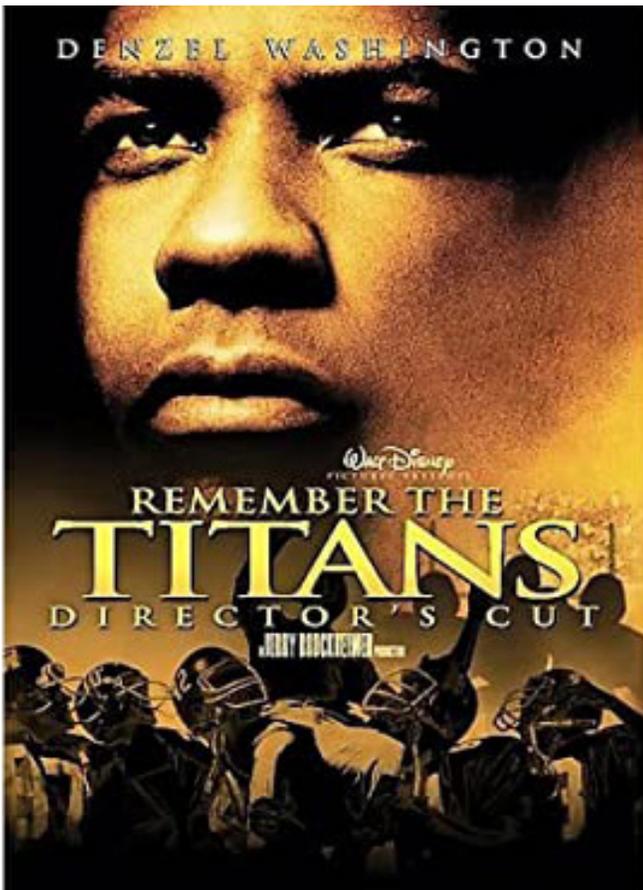
## The Color of Friendship

MPAA Rating: G

### What Parents Need to Know from Common Sense Media

Parents need to know that The Color of Friendship is a Disney family drama about the relationship between a white South African girl and an African American girl during the apartheid era. The movie is based on a true story and mainly set in the Washington D.C. household of African American politician Ron Dellums (Carl Lumbly), who campaigned to end apartheid in South Africa. Racial slurs are used, including “kaffir” and the “N” word, and a scene shows a white man kick a black South African waiter. The storyline examines stereotypes and assumptions based on race and, through a heartwarming tale of friendship, the overall message is of working towards understanding and equality.





## Remember the Titans

MPAA Rating: PG

What Parents Need to Know from Common Sense Media

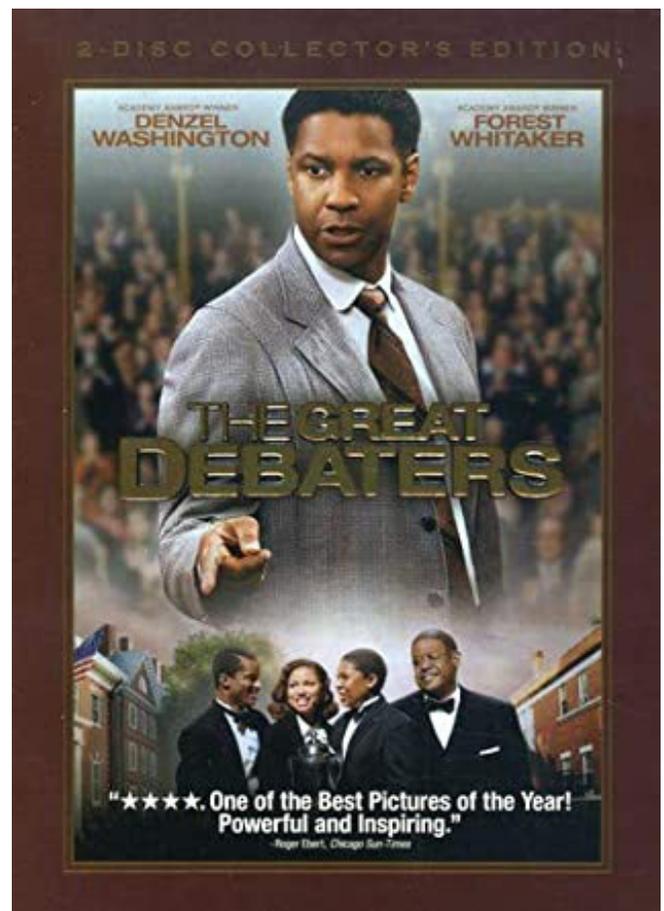
Parents need to know that *Remember the Titans* tells the inspirational true story about the struggles and victories of a newly-integrated high school football team in 1971 Alexandria, Virginia. As such, the film reflects the divisive nature of the times -- the film begins with a near-riot scene between African-Americans and whites on the street separated by the police as bottles and windows break. The racial tensions of the town -- segregation in restaurants, racial slurs, fist fights in the high school -- are shown to highlight the backdrop in which the Titans must learn to get along and play together as a team. The movie includes racist comments and situations and some locker room insults. A major character is critically injured in a car accident. When the boys refer to a long-haired teammate as a "fruitcake," he responds by kissing one of them on the mouth. There are some scuffles and threats of more serious violence. Ultimately, *Remember the Titans* is a deeply moving film about the courage of individuals and the power of sports to transcend perceived and ingrained differences.

## The Great Debaters

MPAA Rating: PG-13

What Parents Need to Know from Common Sense Media

Parents need to know that *The Great Debaters* is an inspirational fact-based drama that includes unvarnished discussions and representations of 1930s racism, including a brutal lynching scene (the victim's body is shown burned and hung). There are also a couple of fight scenes, a confrontation between rural white bullies and an African-American professor, and a scene in which a bloodied, beaten African-American prisoner has been abused by white sheriff. A sex scene is brief and romantic (no graphic images). Language includes repeated uses of "hell" and the "N" word. Some drinking and pipe-smoking.





## Hidden Figures

MPAA Rating: PG

What Parents Need to Know from Common Sense Media

Parents need to know that *Hidden Figures* is based on the inspiring true story of three brilliant African-American women who worked at NASA in the 1950s and '60s as "human computers" -- making calculations and contributions that helped launch the manned spaceflight program. Dorothy Vaughn (Octavia Spencer), Mary Jackson (Janelle Monáe), and Katherine Johnson (Taraji P. Henson) were engineers and computers at NASA at a time when both women and African Americans were still widely discriminated against, particularly in segregationist Virginia, where NASA's Langley Research Center is based. There's a little bit of romance (a few kisses, flirty comments, and slow dancing) and a bit of salty language (mostly along the lines of "damn," "hell," and "Jesus Christ" as an exclamation). The film also offers a realistic look at the racial tensions of the Civil Rights era (segregated bathrooms, libraries, schools, facilities), and audiences will learn a lot about these pioneering women and what they had to overcome to make their mark at NASA. They're excellent role models, and their story is full of positive messages and themes, including integrity, perseverance, teamwork, and communication.

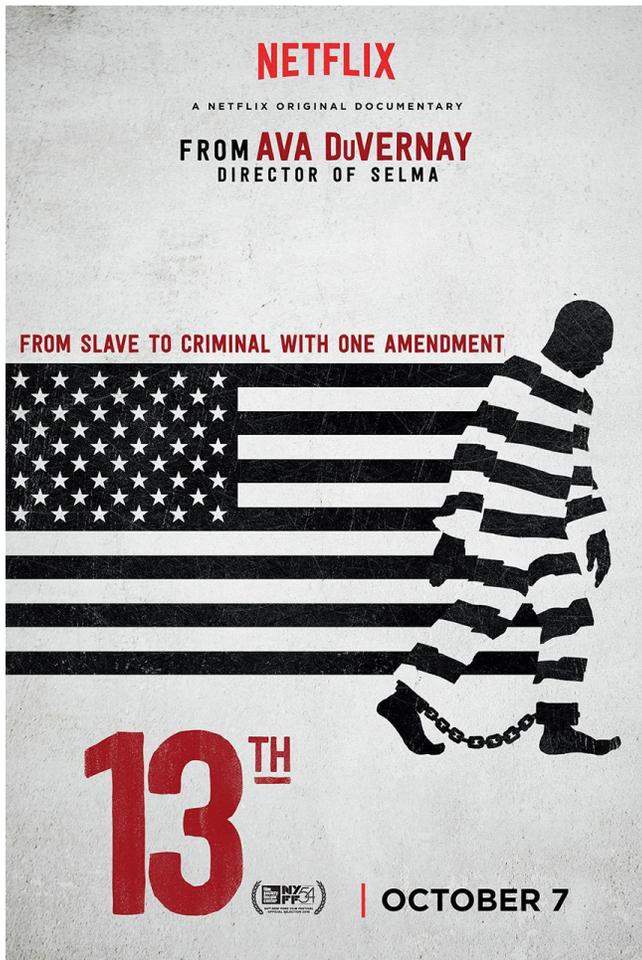
## Harriet

MPAA Rating: PG-13

What Parents Need to Know from Common Sense Media

Parents need to know that *Harriet* is award-winning director Kasi Lemmons' historical drama about Harriet Tubman's evolution from being a young, married slave in Maryland, to her escape to Philadelphia, to her courage to become the "Moses" of the Underground Railroad. Starring Academy Award nominee Cynthia Erivo as Harriet, the film is intense: Expect frequent use of the "N" word, as well as one use of "f--king" and a few other terms. Violence is often upsetting and almost all aimed at Black characters, both free and enslaved. White slave owners/catchers pursue, beat, and even shoot Black men and women. A few characters die, both from brutal beatings and gun violence; some scenes show the violence close-up. Families are separated when slaves are sold, and slaves tell stories of the horrible things they've experienced. Viewers will learn how Harriet interpreted her visions and seizures as prescient visions from God and how she ultimately took 19 trips into the South and escorted more than 300 slaves to freedom, demonstrating courage and integrity.





### 13th

MPAA Rating: NR

#### What Parents Need to Know from Common Sense Media

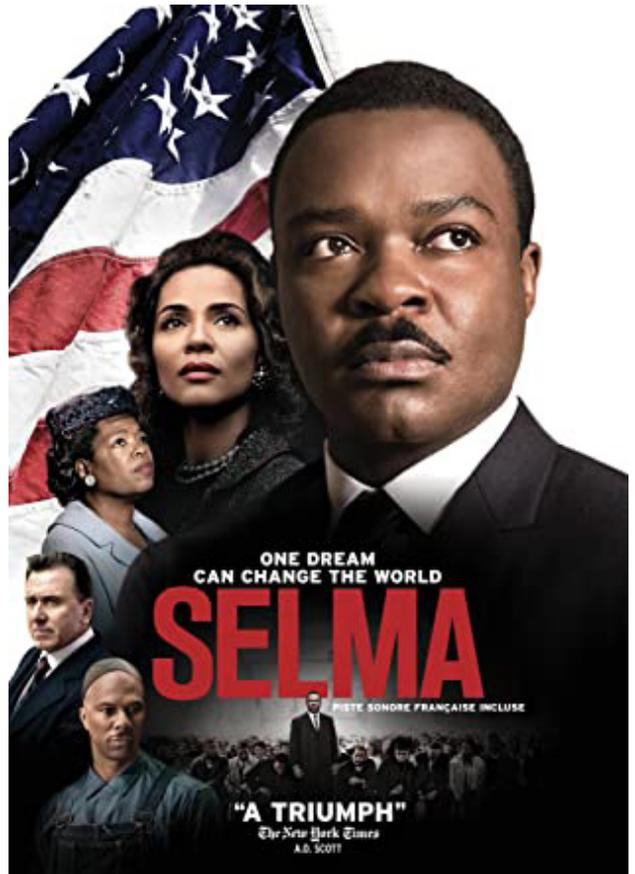
Parents need to know that 13th is a powerful documentary that addresses racial issues confronting America in 2016. In a time of polarized attitudes about mass incarceration, brutality, and the explosion of for-profit prisons and their affiliates, director Ava DuVernay interviews social activists, academics, journalists, and political figures to make the case that today's prisons, which house millions of persons of color, are simply the next incarnation of the centuries-old U.S. exploitation of those who have been deemed "lesser personages." Using archival footage and a clearly developed historical narration to bolster her contention, DuVernay's epic film is not for the faint of heart. The violence onscreen is not "re-created"; it gives prominence to actual beatings, murders, deaths from point-blank gunshots, lynching, and the profound intimidation and caging of both individuals and large groups of African Americans. Incendiary language (visual and audio uses of the "N" word, "f--k," "a--hole") as well as discussions of rape and sexual assault add to the impact of the story. Two men are naked as they are dragged by police officers. Provocative and heartbreakingly real, this documentary is recommended for mature teens and up.

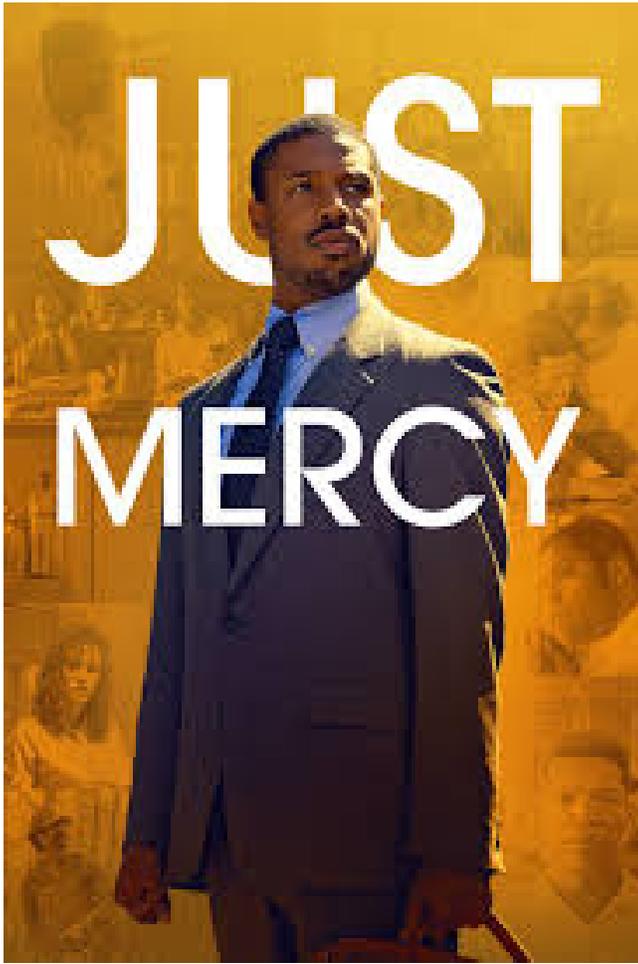
### Selma

MPAA Rating: PG-13

#### What Parents Need to Know from Common Sense Media

Parents need to know that Selma follows the events leading up to 1965's momentous Selma-to-Montgomery civil rights march organized by Martin Luther King Jr.'s Southern Christian Leadership Conference to campaign for voters' rights. Narrowly focused on the time leading up to the march, Selma provides a historical context for how each of the group's campaigns concentrated on raising awareness about a different issue in the segregated South. Expect several intense, disturbing scenes of race-based violence perpetrated against the non-violent protesters, including protesters being beaten bloody with sticks, weapons, and even whips. Others are killed, including innocent girls in a church that's blown up. Despite the historically accurate violence and the occasional strong language (ranging from "f--k" and "s--t" to frequent racial slurs) -- as well as a subplot about infidelity -- this is a powerful, educational drama that parents should watch with their mature tweens and teens.





## **Just Mercy**

MPAA Rating: PG-13

### What Parents Need to Know from Common Sense Media

Parents need to know that *Just Mercy* is a fact-based courtroom drama that tackles the subjects of racism and the death penalty. It centers on idealistic young lawyer Bryan Stevenson (Michael B. Jordan), who travels to Alabama to help save a wrongfully convicted man on Death Row (Jamie Foxx). It has strong language, including multiple uses of “s--t” and the “N” word. There are also some violent and/or upsetting scenes, including a police officer pointing his gun at Bryan’s head and the lead-up to a character’s death by execution. But violence is primarily conveyed through dialogue, including discussions of murder (shooting and strangulation), the planting of a bomb, and a character getting burned. There are also moments of anger and hate/racism. Bryan is forced to strip for a search; he’s humiliated as he removes his shirt and (below the frame) pants and underwear. There’s also brief, mild sex-related dialogue, and brief smoking and beer drinking. The story isn’t surprising, but it’s very effective, with clear messages of perseverance, the importance of doing the right thing, fighting hard for those who need it the most, and the problematic relationship between bigotry and justice.