



ABOUT THE FILM

King's Court is a short documentary that explores masculinity through basketball. In the vibrant and diverse neighbourhood of Bleecker Street in Toronto, Canada, two close friends, Marley & SK, engage in an intense and intimate game called King's Court. Set against the backdrop of their day-to-day lives, this fast-paced one-on-one basketball game becomes a metaphor for their experiences with masculinity and friendship.

Content warning:

Reference to a friend's death [08:00–09:30]

Discussion of an absent parent, neglect [10:05–10:10, 11:10–11:28, 13:25–14:45]

Film length:

19 min

Recommended ages:

12–15 years old

School subjects:

Social Studies, Health & Physical Education, Healthy Living, Social-Emotional Learning (SEL) Skills

Keywords:

friendship, identity, gender, masculinity, sports, resilience, community

Watch: www.nfb.ca/film/kings-court-edu/

Licence: info@nfb.ca

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

BEFORE VIEWING THE FILM

- What are some stereotypes associated with boys and men who play sports?
- In what ways can sports serve as a space for personal growth beyond physical ability?

AFTER VIEWING THE FILM

- What are some ways that the film *King's Court* and the friendship between Marley and SK challenge traditional or stereotypical ideas of masculinity?
- In the film, a group of younger boys looks up to Marley and SK as role models. Why are positive role models important in a community?

FILM VIEWING WORKSHEET - ANSWER KEY**1. What is the reason Marley says his work with youth is so important to him? [03:27–03:46]**

His work with youth is important to him because he's "still the kid who needs that."

2. What do SK and Marley say they miss about being a kid? [7:00–7:25]

As a kid, SK felt safe in his neighbourhood (07:00–07:09). Marley misses the carefree days of his youth; playing basketball with friends (07:15–07:25).

3. What does Marley mean when he says, "You can't pour from an empty cup"? [10:13–10:23]

Marley means that one has to love themselves before they can love someone else.

4. Whose presence did Marley miss when he was younger and what did he need most from this person? [13:30–14:44]


Growing up, Marley needed his father to be present. He needed to be heard and supported.

5. According to Marley, why is it important to dream? [17:50–18:00]

Without dreams, you can get held back by reality and lose yourself. Dreaming helps you rise above tough circumstances.

Resource created in collaboration with:

Laurie Townshend – Writer, documentary filmmaker, educator,
Ontario, CA. 2025.

 [Edit in Google Slides](#)
[Use this editable template](#)

Once the film is over, answer one of the following questions.

1. Who are some role models in your own life, and what have you learned from observing them or engaging with them?
2. List 3 societal expectations or stereotypes related to gender, and describe how they influence the way you view competition, friendship, and emotional expression.
3. In what ways can sports deepen friendships? In what ways might sports create distance? In your opinion, does participation in a sport (even if on opposing teams) impact friendships negatively or positively?

PROJECT IDEA

Create character sketches for Marley and SK. List all the things you know about each of them, including their interests, family background, talents, hopes, etc. Use these facts to imagine Marley and SK in the future. Write a script or short story titled *King's Court: 10 Years Later*.

