

TEACHER'S GUIDE

THE *Ultimate Resource*



featuring  
**James Tooley**  
President, The Education Fund

*Victoria's  
Chance*



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Video Page



# *Victoria's Chance*

## **Teacher's Guide**

*This Teacher's Guide includes the following:*

- Suggested Lesson Plan
- Preview Questions and Key Terms
- Viewing Guide
- Discussion Questions
- Quiz
- Activity: Who Chooses?
- Enrichment Activities
- Answer Key

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## **Suggested Lesson Plan**

*These materials may be used in a variety of ways. For maximum benefit, we suggest the following lesson plan:*

- Discuss the Preview Questions and Key Terms.
- Distribute copies of the Viewing Guide for students to use as a note-taking tool during the video.
- Play the video, pausing if needed to facilitate note-taking and understanding.
- Review and discuss answers to the Viewing Guide.
- Use Discussion Questions to spark class discussion, or assign these questions as homework.
- Working in small groups or as a class, complete the Who Chooses Activity.
- Replay the video as preparation for the Quiz.
- Administer the Quiz.
- Optional: Assign Enrichment Activities.

# *Victoria's Chance*

## **Preview Questions**

(These questions are meant to be read aloud by the teacher.)

1. Locate Ghana on a map.
2. How do you think a typical day in the life of a young person in Ghana would be similar to yours?  
How would it be different?
3. Do you think education is valued differently in various cultures around the world? Explain.

## **Key Terms and Definitions**

1. **Accountable** – subject to the obligation to report, explain, or justify something; responsible; answerable
2. **Competition** – the effort of two or more parties acting independently to secure the business of a third party by offering the most favorable terms
3. **Universal** – existing or prevailing everywhere; typical of the whole of mankind

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## *Victoria's Chance* **Viewing Guide, page 1**

1. This welcoming ceremony...is held only after the mother believes that her \_\_\_\_\_ will survive.
  
2. Bortianor is a village of fishermen in the "Ga" region of \_\_\_\_\_.
  
3. "Now that I am older a lack of \_\_\_\_\_ is a big setback in life."
  
4. James Tooley...studies \_\_\_\_\_ in some of the poorest regions of the world.
  
5. For these children that means education can help lift them out of \_\_\_\_\_.
  
6. Ghana has built schools throughout the country and it has made sure that \_\_\_\_\_ as well as boys attend.
  
7. Public schools are free but \_\_\_\_\_.
  
8. In poor areas...the \_\_\_\_\_ of school children are in private schools.
  
9. These schools outperform the \_\_\_\_\_ schools at a fraction of the teacher cost.

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## *Victoria's Chance* Viewing Guide, page 2

10. When parents pay fees, they \_\_\_\_\_ more of the schools.
11. The schools themselves are \_\_\_\_\_ to the parents.
12. Of the 780 schools in this region of Ghana, 75% are \_\_\_\_\_, for-profit schools.
13. Teacher qualifications are not as \_\_\_\_\_ as in the government school.
14. But classes are \_\_\_\_\_ and the school day lasts a full seven hours.
15. \_\_\_\_\_ is good. It's good for the parents;  
good for the children; it's good for the system.
16. Parents want their \_\_\_\_\_ to do well in life.
17. Parents want their children to get a good education. It's a \_\_\_\_\_  
phenomenon.

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### **Discussion Questions**

1. What was your reaction to the Kpodziemo (po-JAY-mo)?
2. What is the educational background of Victoria's parents? What are their goals for Victoria? Is there a connection? Explain.
3. Why are extremely poor parents in African villages willing to pay for private schooling for their children?
4. What are the problems with the government schools in Ghana?
5. How are the private schools able to outperform the government schools, at a lower teacher cost?
6. What is accountability? What makes the private schools more accountable to parents?
7. What do you think motivated Theophilus Quaye to start the Supreme Academy?
8. Why does James Tooley say competition is "good for the parents; good for the children; good for the system"?
9. How do the hopes and dreams of American parents compare with those of parents in Ghana?
10. Do you think Victoria's parents made the correct choice for her education? Explain.

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## *Victoria's Chance* **Quiz, Page 1**

1. The "Outdooring" ceremony, Kpodziemo (po-JAY-mo), is held as soon as
  - A) the child is born
  - B) the mother believes the child will survive
  - C) the child can walk
  - D) the child is ready to enter school
  
2. In Ghana, which schools are open to girls?
  - A) only private schools
  - B) only public schools
  - C) both private and public schools
  - D) neither private nor public schools
  
3. In a poor village such as Bortianor
  - A) most school children attend private schools
  - B) most children attend free public schools
  - C) most parents do not value education
  - D) most parents cannot afford education for their children
  
4. James Tooley believes policy makers should be more open minded, and adopt the view that poor children just need
  - A) public education
  - B) private education
  - C) whatever education works for them and their parents
  - D) more money
  
5. Tooley says that private schools outperform government schools in Ghana because
  - A) private schools pay their teachers more
  - B) private school students are rich
  - C) private schools have stricter teacher qualification requirements
  - D) private schools are accountable to parents and owners

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6. Which of the following is not mentioned as a problem with the government schools in Ghana?
- A) Overcrowding
  - B) Lack of supervision
  - C) Lack of funding
  - D) No fixed schedule of classes
7. Victoria dreams of becoming
- A) a doctor
  - B) a fisherman
  - C) a teacher
  - D) a farmer
8. According to James Tooley, it is significant that there are six private schools in Bortianor because this provides
- A) jobs
  - B) competition
  - C) religious instruction
  - D) none of the above
9. At Victoria's school, The Supreme Academy, the school day lasts
- A) two hours
  - B) four hours
  - C) seven hours
  - D) ten hours
10. "When parents \_\_\_\_\_ they demand more of the schools."
- A) pay fees
  - B) have college degrees
  - C) earn high incomes
  - D) live in suburbs



## *Victoria's Chance*

### **Activity:**

## **Who chooses? Who benefits? Who pays? What's fair?**

[These four questions can be a useful tool for evaluating any policy or system. Posing the questions is a great way to stimulate critical thinking.]

*As a class, or in small groups, discuss the following:*

(Be sure to consider all of the people or groups who may choose, benefit, or pay in each situation. Pay should be interpreted broadly to include non-monetary costs.)

- Who can best make choices about a child's education?
- Who decides what a good education is?
- Who benefits when we limit parents' choices of schools?
- Who benefits when parents have more choice in schools?
- Who pays for Victoria's school?
- Who pays for public schools in Ghana?
- Is it fair that some schools are better than others?

## *Victoria's Chance*

# **Enrichment Activities**

- I. Think of what you would do to create a great school if you were the owner or manager of a private high school. Make a tri-fold brochure with at least three small pictures or illustrations that would advertise to parents and students what is good about your school.
  
- II. Essay – Are people less likely to value their children's education if they get it for free?

## *Victoria's Chance*

# Viewing Guide Answer Key

1. child
2. Ghana
3. education
4. schools (or education)
5. poverty
6. girls
7. overcrowded
8. majority
9. government (or public)
10. demand
11. accountable
12. private
13. strict
14. smaller
15. Competition
16. Children
17. universal

## Quiz Answer Key

1. B) the mother believes the child will survive
2. C) both private and public schools
3. A) most school children attend private schools
4. C) whatever education works for them and their parents
5. D) private schools are accountable to parents and owners
6. C) Lack of funding
7. A) a doctor
8. B) competition
9. C) seven hours
10. A) pay fees

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