Lesson goal
This activity will help students learn more about the children who are featured in PROMISES, with the goal of broadening their understanding of the different perspective that each child has on the issues facing Israelis and Palestinians.

Materials
> STUDENT WORKSHEET: The Children In the Film
> STUDENT WORKSHEET: Discussion Questions
> The film

Time needed
102 minutes to view the film; one class period for this post-viewing activity

Instructions
1. Prior to viewing the film, break the class into seven groups. Assign each group a child featured in the film. Tell each group to pay special attention to their person as they view the film. (Students may take notes if they wish.) You may want to provide students with the Discussion Questions prior to viewing to give them some sense of what they will be looking for as they view.

2. Following the viewing, ask students to sit in their groups and spend 10 minutes, working individually, jotting notes to the Discussion Questions on the worksheet. After 10 minutes, ask them to talk about their answers in their groups.

3. Following the discussion, ask each student, working with their groups, to complete the Viewing Worksheet trying to reach consensus and think of examples as they write. Each group should be prepared to present information to the class.

4. Discuss the ways in which the lives of the Israeli and Palestinian children are different, even though they live only 20 minutes away from each other.

5. EXTRA CREDIT: Have students write an essay about a place they have either visited or heard about that is about 20 minutes from where they live. In what ways are the lives of young people growing up there the same as or different from theirs?
After watching the film, discuss the following questions:

1. What differences did you notice in living conditions between the Palestinian and Israeli children in the film?

2. What aspects of daily life did you see in both the Israeli and Palestinian children’s lives that you would NEVER have to think about?

3. What does being Israeli mean for Daniel and Yarko? For Moishe?

4. What does the Israeli occupation mean for Faraj and Sanabel?

5. What made Faraj change his mind about meeting Yarko and Daniel?

6. Why did Mahmoud not want to meet Yarko and Daniel?

7. Why did Moishe not want to meet Palestinians?

8. What role did sports play in the film?

9. Who came in second place? What does it mean?

10. What did the burping sequence mean to you?

11. What do you have in common with your person?

12. What do you find hard to understand about your person?

13. How if at all did your person change in the film?

14. What more do you want to know about your person?
   *(Note: The home video version of PROMISES includes updates about the children.)*

15. Why do you think the film is called PROMISES?

16. How did you feel in the moments after watching the film?

17. What are your feelings about the prospects for peace in the Middle East? What in the film made you feel hopeful? What in the film made you feel discouraged?

18. What touched or affected you while watching the film? Tell two or three things.

19. What surprised you? Tell two or three things.
Yarko & Daniel, secular Israelis, West Jerusalem, sons of Holocaust survivor
I understand this is our country and it’s also theirs. (Yarko)
In war both sides suffer. Maybe there’s a winner but what’s a winner? People on BOTH sides die. Both sides lose. (Daniel)

Sanabel, Palestinian Muslim, Deheishe Refugee Camp, daughter of jailed Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP) leader
The Jews kicked us off our land and put us in this camp.

Shlomo, Israeli Orthodox Jew, Jewish quarter of the Old City, son of a rabbi
I understand them because they were thrown out of here 50 years ago and they feel very very small. Very like hurt because they were thrown out that way.

Mahmoud, Palestinian Muslim, East Jerusalem, son of merchant in Muslim quarter of the Old City
The Jews say this is their land. How could it be their land? If it’s their land, why does the Quran say that The Prophet Mohammed flew from Mecca to the Al Aqsa Mosque in Jerusalem?

Faraj, Palestinian Muslim, Deheishe Refugee Camp, son of Palestinian refugees
The life we live doesn’t allow us to accomplish our dreams. Peace between you and me is impossible unless we get to know each other.

Moishe, Israeli Orthodox Jew, Beit-El, settler on West Bank
God promised us the land of Israel. The Arabs came and took it. I am surrounded by Arabs. We fight because this land is ours. If I could make my own future, all the Arabs would fly away.
Which person were you following in the film?

Note the following as they relate to the person you were following:

> What makes this person feel proud?

> What makes this person feel misunderstood?

> What about this person’s history affects them?

> What privileges does this person receive?

> What barriers/difficulties does this person face?

> Name something particularly noteworthy or striking that your person said.

> Name something particularly noteworthy or striking that your person did.