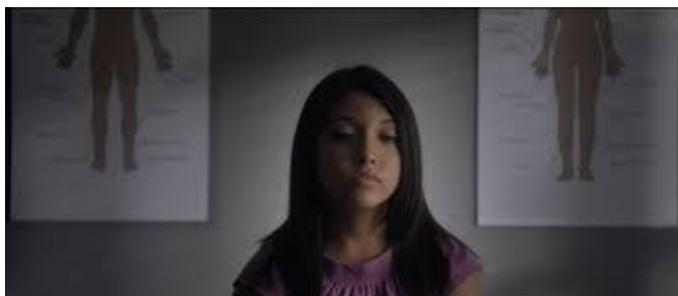


STEALTH

Bennett Lasseter, 2015



Synopsis:

Sammy is transgender. She is living in stealth as a girl, with the support of her mother and a doctor. At her new school, Sammy finds the friends she has always dreamed of having and tells them her secret in confidence. When the threat of a betrayal arises, Sammy must decide whether to run or to live as her whole self.

Run Time:

21:54

Suggested Grades:

5+

The Takeaway/ Learning Objectives:

- We cannot always tell who is trans by looking
- Some people who are trans want to 'pass' as their gender
- Empathy building for cisgender students
- Examples of good and bad allyship
- Trans people get to decide if they want to share they are trans with other people. If so, they get to decide where and when to do so

Content Flags:

The main character is outed, a reference to past violence + bullying

Keywords/ description:

trans, trans girl, allyship, middle school

Pre-viewing Questions:

- What does it feel like going to a new school? *Scary, exciting, awkward etc.*
- What are some common things you may stress about when starting at a new school? *Will I make friends, will people be nice to me, will the teachers be fun etc.*

Post-Viewing Questions:

- Who were supportive characters to Sammy?
 - *Her mom*
 - *Doctor*
 - *Perhaps Kim*
- Who were unsupportive characters to Sammy?
 - *Bri and Bri's dad*
 - *Friends from the previous school*
 - *Perhaps Kim*
- Discuss Kim further, would you consider her an ally to Sammy? Why or why not?
 - *This answer is subjective and nuanced*
 - *Kim did not support Sammy during the sleepover; she did come around in the end and was kind to Sammy*
 - *She didn't give a very good apology and allowed Bri to tell others what Sammy had shared with them in confidence.*
- Was there anything she could have done differently?
 - *She might have stood up to Bri at the sleepover*
 - *She might have made Sammy's secret less of a big deal*
 - *She might have tried to stop Bri from telling other people Sammy is transgender by talking to an adult she trusted*
 - *She might have left the sleepover with Sammy*

Common Questions:

- What are the medications Sammy talks about with her doctor?
 - *Lupron is a medication that delays puberty and reduces distress that can come with puberty-induced changes to our bodies that are not in line with our gender. We can learn more at <http://www.phsa.ca/transcarebc/child-youth/affirmation-transition/medical-affirmation-transition/puberty-blockers-for-youth>*
 - *In the film, Lupron is used to keep Sammy's testosterone levels low, and prevent changes from puberty - such as deepening voice, growing an Adam's apple - that cannot be reversed. Sometimes, our doctors require*

us to stay on Lupron for a certain amount of time before we can take hormones that reflect our gender (in Sammy's case, estrogen).

- Estrogen is a hormone made by many bodies assigned female at birth will make. Estrogen is associated with development of breast tissue, broadening of the hips, and monthly bleeding.
- What happens when someone takes hormones/ hormone blockers?
 - [Hormone Therapy](#) is when someone takes hormones to better align their body characteristics with their desired gender.
- Can kids get Hormone Therapy? Is that safe?
 - Generally, kids have to wait until they are teenagers to start hormone therapy, which typically involves estrogen and testosterone blockers, or testosterone.
 - Some kids may be assessed by a doctor to take hormone blockers which prevents or delays puberty (the development of secondary sex characteristics such as facial + body hair, voice changes, breast development, etc). Hormone blockers are considered very safe. Preventing kids from taking hormone blockers worsens their mental health.
 - There are minimal side effects to hormone therapy. Preventing trans, non-binary, and Two-Spirit people who want hormone therapy from taking it worsens their mental health.

Associated Activities:

Reflection Prompt: Have you ever felt like you needed to hide parts of who you are or what you like out of fear of being bullied, excluded, or harmed? How does that feel? If not, why do you think that is your experience?

- Oftentimes people who are seen as “different” feel like they cannot bring their whole selves into a space out of fear of harm. For example, when Sammy told her friends she had a boy's body, they decided to exclude her. It sounds like that she was also treated badly because of being trans at her past school.
 - Sometimes we may choose not to share protected parts of our identities (our race, ability, class, religion, gender, sexual orientation...).
 - It should always be our choice whether or not we want to share parts of ourselves with other people around us. In reality, sometimes this choice gets taken away from us, whether because someone we trust tells other people without our permission, or because we need someone else to provide support (for example, Sammy's doctor).

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- We may also choose not to share other parts of our identities (our taste in music/ media, our hobbies). For example, we may really like something that is not 'cool' or 'fashionable' and may not want other people to find out.
- Oftentimes, our privilege allows us a sense of safety that isn't afforded to our marginalized friends. *"As a cisgender person, I generally feel safe in bathrooms"* or *"As a white person, I've never been made to feel like I don't belong here."* Where do we go from here?