

# Using TED Talks with Kids

Be amazed at how much students can learn about the world (and about themselves) in a few minutes!

## What are TED Talks?

TED (Technology, Entertainment, Design) Talks (<http://www.ted.com/>) are short videos in which brilliant people share amazing ideas on important subjects. The speakers are carefully-selected experts who have a gift for expressing complicated ideas clearly.

## How to use TED Talks

Some teachers are starting to use TED Talks as a source of educational content for students. The talks are filled with intriguing images and engaging hands-on demonstrations. Many of the topics are closely aligned to Common Core and STEM. Almost every speaker approaches their subject in a cross-disciplinary way. TED Talks include interesting vocabulary words and provide remarkable opportunities for developing non-fiction language skills.

When using TED Talks with students, be sure to go beyond simply asking them to write a “book report.” Challenge them to pick out one interesting idea or insight from the video and describe it in detail. Ask them to explain why the idea they chose is interesting, and how it relates to their life experiences.

### Example: “On Being Wrong” ([http://www.ted.com/talks/kathryn\\_schulz\\_on\\_being\\_wrong](http://www.ted.com/talks/kathryn_schulz_on_being_wrong))

A student who watches this talk might select the introduction in which the speaker shares her misunderstanding of the symbol for a picnic table. The student could share an example of being wrong in her own life and comment on how the speaker’s insights will change her attitude about “wrongness” in the future.

### Example: “Teach Every Child about Food” ([http://www.ted.com/talks/jamie\\_oliver](http://www.ted.com/talks/jamie_oliver))

A student who watches this talk might select the section in which the speaker dumps a wheelbarrow full of sugar on the stage (from 12:18 to 13:42 in the video). The student could note that, at her school cafeteria, almost every item contains sugar. She realizes this affects her, and shares her ideas about how to get schools to change.

### Example: “What Adults can Learn from Kids” ([http://www.ted.com/talks/adora\\_svitak](http://www.ted.com/talks/adora_svitak))

Some TED talks feature children as speakers. A student who watches this video might pick the observation Adora makes about the definition of “childish”, and explain his view on that topic.

Many organizations have created lists of TED talks that work well in school settings:

- <http://www.ted.com/attend/conferences/special-events/tedyouth>
- <http://www.edudemic.com/25-ted-talks-perfect-for-classrooms/>
- [http://www.ted.com/playlists/86/talks\\_to\\_watch\\_with\\_kids](http://www.ted.com/playlists/86/talks_to_watch_with_kids)
- <http://blog.ted.com/2012/10/17/9-talks-by-impressive-kids/>
- <http://www.ted.com/watch/topics/children>
- [http://www.ted.com/playlists/129/ted\\_under\\_20](http://www.ted.com/playlists/129/ted_under_20)

Be sure to preview all TED Talks to make sure they are appropriate for your students. Let RAFT know which ones you think are best! ([raft@raft.net](mailto:raft@raft.net))