



Rafiki

Film Study Guide

Director: Wanuri Kahiu

**2018 | Fiction | 83 Minutes | Kenya, South Africa, Germany, Netherlands, France,
Norway, Lebanon, UK | Swahili | Unrated**

<http://www.wanurikahiu.com/rafiki/>

Synopsis: A tender tale of forbidden first love told in an electric, colorful Afropop style, *Rafiki* tells the story of the tender but illegal and taboo romance between Kena, a skateboarding tomboy blessed with great grades and soccer skills, and Ziki, the charismatic daughter of a conservative local politician. When

Post-Screening Discussion Questions

1. The adults in Kena's life are often pressuring her to find a husband and settle. How does she rebel against this? How does she not?
2. Mama Atim is established early on as a gossip. How do her actions affect Ziki and Kena? What do you think about her character? Why do you think she does the things she does?

3. How does Blacksta and Kena's friendship evolve over the course of the film? Do you think his feelings for her are genuine? Why or why not?
4. What struggles do Ziki and Kena face for being gay? How is this similar to what LGBTQIA+ people face in the US? How is it different?
5. Stylistically, how is this movie different from the Western films you've seen? 6. Ziki and Kena talk a lot about escape and leaving their hometown. What is the irony in Ziki's parents sending her to London near the end of the film? Why do you think she came back?
6. How does Kena's father grow and change over the course of the movie?
7. "Rafiki" leaves its characters in a place of uncertainty. We aren't told what's going to happen to them next. How did you feel at the ending of this movie? Do you think there's hope for Ziki and Kena moving forward?