

# HOMETOWN HEROES WORKSHEET

Teacher Version | Ezequiel Gonzalez (Part I)  
Running Time: 10:41 | Video Clip from 0:00 – 10:41

## **What do you remember about Ezequiel's childhood?**

*It was sad, lonely, he was bullied, his parents were abusive, he couldn't speak English, there was stress and anger at home, he came to the US illegally when as a child, he didn't want to exist.*

## **Were there people in this story who could have helped him? Why didn't they? What might have happened if they did?**

*His teacher, his other classmates, the principal, his mom; they saw him as different or a troublemaker; he might have made friends, enjoyed school, not felt so alone.*

## **What did he mean when he said he became a silent person?**

*He didn't think talking would help, since no one listened or cared; he was angry; he was embarrassed about not knowing English, etc.*

## **When did Ezequiel decide to turn to a gang, and why?**

*He was in 3rd grade when he started looking up to gangs; in 4th grade he got into a fight with a boy who bullied him; he was 12 years old when he was officially "jumped into" a gang; he wanted the kids at school not to mess with him.*

## **What were you thinking about while you watched 13 seconds go by on the screen?**

### **Is 13 seconds a long or short time?**

*[ open ended ]*

## **How old was Ezequiel when he was arrested and sent to prison?**

*15 years old*

## **Complete this sentence: Ezequiel's life would have been different if \_\_\_\_.**

*[ open ended ]*

## **How would you have acted toward Ezequiel if he was one of your classmates?**

*[ open ended ]*

## **How did Part 1 of Ezequiel's story make you feel?**

*[ open ended ]*

## **Use words or pictures to express how you feel after watching this video.**

*After the students fill out the sheet, lead them in sharing their answers. This can be done with the whole group, or by breaking down into smaller groups. Encourage honest sharing and good listening.]*

# HOMETOWN HEROES WORKSHEET

Teacher Version | Ezequiel Gonzalez (Part II)  
Running Time: 9:45 | Video Clip from 10:42 – 20:27

**When Ezequiel was in 4th grade, what did one of his teachers tell him? Why?**

*An art teacher told him that he would never be an artist, because he didn't follow directions and burned some equipment, they were using to make recycled paper*

**Ezequiel shared that he thinks his life would have been different if there was someone who believed in him. Why is that so important?**

*[ open ended ]*

**What new interest did Ezequiel find in prison that started him down a different path?**

*Art*

**What is the name of the first painting technique Ezequiel learned?**

*Photo realism*

**Ezequiel took and taught art classes in prison. Why was teaching so important to him?**

*it helped him become a better artist; it made him feel included; it made him a leader; etc.*

**Do you have a special interest or talent?**

*[ open ended ]*

**Is there something you wish you could learn or do?**

*[ open ended ]*

**What does it take to become good at something?**

*[ open ended ]*

**How did this video make you feel?**

*[ open ended ]*

**On the other side of this page, use words or pictures to express how you feel after watching this video**

*After the students fill out the sheet, lead them in sharing their answers. This can be done with the whole group, or by breaking down into smaller groups. Encourage honest sharing and good listening.*

# HOMETOWN HEROES WORKSHEET

Teacher Version | Ezequiel Gonzalez (Part III)  
Running Time: 9:10 | Video Clip from 20:28 - End

**What does Ezequiel like about doing theater?**

*It makes him feel like a child again, felt free, it's interactive and social, etc.*

**How did it make Ezequiel feel when he was sad on stage and had tears rolling down his face in front of an audience? How do you think it would make you feel?**

*[ open ended ]*

**In today's video Ezequiel mentions a man named Stan. Do you remember who he was from the last video? Why is it important to Ezequiel that he honor Stan?**

*His cell neighbor in prison and the man who taught him how to paint; the man who wouldn't sell him the painting of the tiger but said he'd teach him how to paint it.*

**What does Ezequiel do now to help his community?**

*He started a youth theater company; he teaches free art lessons.*

**What other big new challenges is Ezequiel taking on?**

*building his own house; starting a food business; podcast*

**Why does Ezequiel say he has nothing to lose?**

*He was supposed to be in prison until 2035, so the time he has now is a bonus that wasn't expected.*

**What part of Ezequiel's story did you like the most?**

*[ open ended ]*

**If you could go back in time and say something to Ezequiel when he was a child, what would you tell him? Do you have anything you'd want to tell him now?**

*[ open ended ]*

**How did this video make you feel?**

*[ open ended ]*

**On the other side of this page, use words or pictures to express how you feel after watching this video.**

*After the students fill out the sheet, lead them in sharing their answers. This can be done with the whole group, or by breaking down into smaller groups. Encourage honest sharing and good listening.*