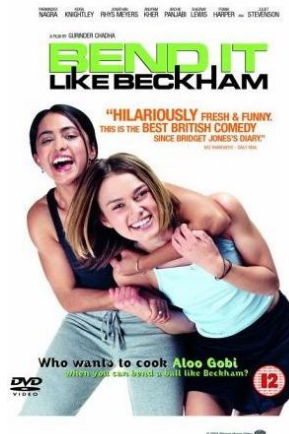




Bend it like Beckham

This light hearted film contrasts the lives of 2 girls, both with a passion for football and a dream to play for England. The story looks at their culturally different lifestyles and parental expectations as well as the issues of gender roles, friendship across cultures, prejudice, parental obedience and their determination to follow a dream. It also gives useful insights into the Sikh religion.



Ideas for discussion:

Jess and her sister Pinky have very different ideas about their futures. What are they?

Jess 'prays' to her poster of David Beckham and her parents to a picture of Babaji (Sikh holy man). In what ways is this similar to the way you pray? How is it different?

Jess's Dad says of her footballing career: 'It's not nice. You must start behaving like a proper woman.' What did he mean by that? What do you mean by that?

In what ways were the families of Jess and Jules similar?

Why so you think Tony pretended he and Jess were engaged? Could that marriage have succeeded?

Do you think Jess was right to deceive her parents?

Jess's Dad played cricket until he experienced racial prejudice in England. He never played again and still felt bitter about it. Why do you think this was? What bad experiences do you hold on to instead of giving them to God and leaving them there?

Football was the passion of both girls – what is your passion?

