

“Spare Parts” starring George Lopez, Jamie Lee Curtis, Carlos PenaVega, 2015, PG-13, 114 minutes

Major themes:

- Teamwork
- Underdog
- Marginalization
- Immigration
- Mentoring
- Attitude
- Intimidation
- Pursuing dreams

Major characters:

- Teacher Fredi Cameron
- Teacher Gwen Kolinsky
- Principal Karen Lowry
- Oscar Vasquez
- Cristian Arcega
- Lorenzo Santillan
- Luis Aranda

Movie Nights for Thinkers and Seekers

Background info:

- Carl T. Hayden Community High School is located in Phoenix, Arizona. It is named after a U.S. Representative and Senator who represented Arizona for 57 years, from 1912 to 1969.
- The film's tagline is *"It takes a team to build a dream."*
- This film is based on the Wired Magazine article "*La Vida Robot*" by Joshua Davis, about the true story of a group of students from a mainly Latino high school who competed in the 2004 Marine Advanced Technology Education ROV (Remotely Operated Vehicle) competition. It was also inspired by the book, *"Spare Parts: Four Undocumented Teenagers, One Ugly Robot, and the Battle for the American Dream"* by Joshua Davis.
- Filming was done in New Mexico.

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Scriptures:

1 Corinthians 1:10 (The Message) – *“I have a serious concern to bring up with you, my friends, using the authority of Jesus, our Master. I’ll put it as urgently as I can: You must get along with each other. You must learn to be considerate of one another, cultivating a life in common.”*

Exodus 23:9 (NLT) – *“You must not oppress foreigners. You know what it’s like to be a foreigner, for you yourselves were once foreigners in the land of Egypt.”*

Proverbs 5:11 – 14 (The Message) – *“You don’t want to end your life full of regrets, nothing but sin and bones, saying, ‘Oh, why didn’t I do what they told me? Why did I reject a disciplined life? Why didn’t I listen to my mentors, or take my teachers seriously? My life is ruined! I haven’t one blessed thing to show for my life!’”*

Philippians 2:3 – 5 (NLT) – *“Don’t be selfish; don’t try to impress others. Be humble, thinking of others as better than yourselves. Don’t look out only for your own interests, but take an interest in others, too. You must have the same attitude that Christ Jesus had.”*

Philippians 1:28 (The Message) – *“Stand united, singular in vision, contending for people’s trust in the Message, the good news, not flinching or dodging in the slightest before the opposition. Your courage and unity will show them what they’re up against: defeat for them, victory for you—and both because of God.”*

John 10:10 (The Message) – *“[Jesus] came so they can have real and eternal life, more and better life than they ever dreamed of.”*

Ephesians 3:20 (NLT) – *“Now all glory to God, who is able, through his mighty power at work within us, to accomplish infinitely more than we might ask or think.”*

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Discussion points:

1. What negative comment have you recently heard that you could reframe in your life?
2. Where in this film did you notice someone fanning the flame of a dream?
3. What were the primary factors that helped the students adjust their attitudes when faced with seemingly insurmountable difficulties?
4. What helped the characters not to become intimidated?
5. Which marginalized individual did you notice? What made this character marginalized? What advice would you give to someone in a similar situation?
6. Share something that a mentor modeled or taught you that has helped you in your life.
7. What did you notice about teamwork demonstrated in this film?
8. What are the pros and cons of competitions that stand out the most to you?