

## Chapter 3

### Middle School & High School Warm-Up Videos

**NOTE on this document:** *there are 2 separate videos here that work together; I'd do these as back-to-back listenings to warm up the class and prime their brains for the topic of adolescence*

#### This American Life: Middle School

**Reading textbook tie-in:** Fits with the general theme of adolescence (Recommended use to start this chapter, immediately followed by “Does Being Popular in High School Really Matter?” [below])

**Appeal of this radio show:** I'd use this segment to start the chapter on adolescence, because I think it's something that everyone can relate to (or maybe not! Maybe the students will have an interesting discussion about how middle school is *not* awful in their countries). I wouldn't really do any note-taking strategies with this first video -- it's more of a warmup than anything.

**NOTE #1:** *It will most likely be easier for you as a teacher to DOWNLOAD this clip and play it in iTunes or another video player to have better control over stopping at the right place and re-playing any clips you'd like, as the online player is a little clunky.*

**NOTE #2:** *I've added some discussion questions about “what was high/middle school like in your country?” but not all of our students went to high school or middle school, so definitely don't force all students to answer the question or talk to each other in pairs about this topic.*

#### Listening Link

<b>This American Life: Middle School</b>	Type: Radio show	Full duration: 58:00
<a href="https://www.thisamericanlife.org/449/middle-school">https://www.thisamericanlife.org/449/middle-school</a>		
	Segment #1: 0:00-4:07 Minimum lesson duration: 10 minutes Approximate lesson duration: 15 minutes	

#### PRE-VIEWING ACTIVITIES:

**Explain the American K-12 system (elementary, middle school/junior high, high school).**



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Discussion questions:

- o What is the public school system like in your home country?
- o What is middle school like in your home country?

POST-VIEWING ACTIVITIES:

Questions to answer

- 1) Do you think it's necessary for children to go through a horrible time in middle school?
- 2) What do you think could be done to make middle school better?

POSSIBLE HOMEWORK:

Listen to the rest of the radio show!

TRANSCRIPT: <https://www.thisamericanlife.org/449/transcript>



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## ABOVE THE NOISE: Does Being Popular in High School Really Matter?

**Reading textbook tie-in:** Fits with the general theme of adolescence (Recommended use to start this chapter, immediately preceded by “Middle School” [above])

**Appeal of this video:** This is a very nice, easy follow-up to the first audio segment on “middle school”

### Listening Link

<b>ABOVE THE NOISE: Does Being Popular in High School Really Matter?</b>	Type: “pop science” type show that “takes a deeper look at the research and facts behind controversial and trending topics in the news”	Full duration: 4:19
<a href="https://www.pbs.org/video/does-being-popular-in-high-school-really-matter-ybmnuq/">https://www.pbs.org/video/does-being-popular-in-high-school-really-matter-ybmnuq/</a>		
	Segment #1: 0:00-4:19 Minimum lesson duration: 20 minutes Approximate lesson duration: 30 minutes	

### PRE-VIEWING ACTIVITIES:

#### Vocab

*Popularity*  
*Status*  
*Likeability*  
*Hormones*  
*Relational aggression*  
*Longitudinal study*  
*Sample size*  
*Correlation vs. causation*

### VIEWING ACTIVITIES:

#### Questions to answer

- 1) What are the two types of “popularity” that the video explains?
- 2) How does popularity change over time as we grow from children to teenagers?
- 3) What are the three examples of “relational aggression” that the host gives?
- 4) What are two or three things that happen to popular teens after high school?
- 5) The host describes two longitudinal studies. Summarize both of them.



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- 6) The final study that the host describes (that has the image of the dollar bills floating down over the man's head) is about likability. The host describes two limitations to the study. What are they?

## POST-VIEWING ACTIVITIES:

### Discussion Questions

- 1) Why do you think having a few close friends versus having a lot of influence in high school matters?
- 2) Are there similar trends about popularity, both in status and likeability, for adolescents in your home country?

### Homework:

Do the "suggested assignment: teen movie presentations"!

### Transcript:

*Not easily available. There are closed captions provided with the video, so it's accessible, but I wouldn't really use the transcript for this warm-up video.*

