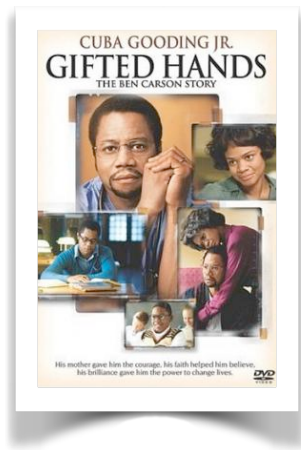


## Gifted Hands: The Ben Carson Story

### Part 1: Ben's Struggles in Childhood (00:00 – 00:20)

- 1) Why does young Ben Carson struggle in school?
- 2) How does his mother encourage him to keep trying?
- 3) What rules does Sonya set for Ben and his brother? Why?



Fair Use [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gifted\\_Hands:\\_The\\_Ben\\_Carson\\_Story#/media/File:Gifted-hands-movie.jpg](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gifted_Hands:_The_Ben_Carson_Story#/media/File:Gifted-hands-movie.jpg)

**Pause --- Group Discussion --- Just turn around to form a group of four.**

- a) What challenges did Sonya face, and how did these influence her desire to instill a strong work ethic in her sons?
- b) How is work ethic related to achieving success?
- c) Compare Sonya's parenting methods to modern approaches. Would her approach still be effective today?

### Part 2: Ben's Transformation (00:20 – 00:50)

- 4) What helps Ben start to improve in school?
- 5) What challenges does Ben face as he grows up?

### Part 3: Ben's Medical Career (00:50 – 01:20)

- 6) How does Ben's hard work pay off as he becomes a doctor?
- 7) How does Ben use his skills to help others?

**Part 4: Ben's Biggest Challenge (01:20 – End)**

- 8) What makes the surgery to separate conjoined twins so difficult?
- 9) How does Ben stay calm and confident during the surgery?
- 10) How does the story end? What lessons do you think Ben learned from his mother?

**After Watching**

- 11) What do you think is the most important message of the movie?
- 12) How did Ben's mother shape who he became?
- 13) Do you think hard work is more important than natural talent? Why or why not?
- 14) What lessons from this movie can you apply to your own life?

**Creative Writing – CHOOSE one task after watching the movie**

- **Quote Analysis:** Discuss the meaning of this quote from Sonya:  
"You can do anything anyone else can do, only you can do it better!"
- **Speech in high school:** Imagine you are Ben Carson giving a speech in front of high school students. Thank your mother for the lessons she taught you about hard work and explain to the students how these lessons helped you succeed.
- **Instagram post:** Imagine you have an Instagram lifestyle account. Create a (carousel) post and write about how *work ethic* has influenced success in **your own life**. Use the following questions to guide your response: What does work ethic mean to you? Can you think of a time when hard work paid off for you? Who has influenced your work ethic the most? How? Will the story of Ben Carson play a role in your life from now on?