

Teen Group #5

Video Suggestions with Thought Provoking Questions



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About this Document: This document provides the Teen Facilitator with a list of suggested movies that have been effective in past teen groups.

- This is a list of movies that PLL has provided questions to help guide you in a follow up discussion with the teens once the movie has completed.

How to use this Document:

1. Select one of the movies listed below, that you feel will be appropriate and meaningful to the group of teens you are working with.
2. View the movie beforehand if you have never watched it.
3. Use the 3 or 4 questions that we have provided for you.
4. Write your questions on the flip chart before the movie begins and point them out to the teens before the movie begins so that they can be thinking about the possible answers while watching the movie.

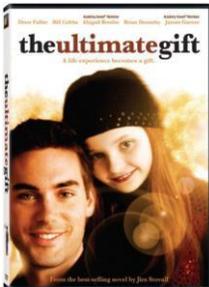
Movies with Thought Provoking Questions:

August Rush: (PG)



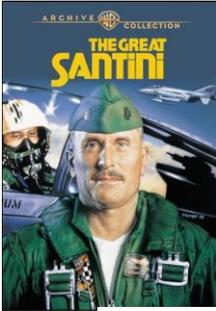
1. What are your thoughts about why I chose this movie?
2. August and his parents were trying to find each other. Do you ever feel like you have lost the connection you once had to your parents and you are trying to find them?
3. What risks was August willing to take to find his parents?

The Ultimate Gift: (PG)



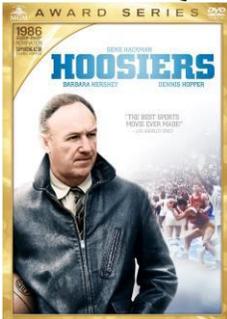
1. What is it that made Jason's heart grow softer and his character stronger?
2. Do you agree that sometimes difficulties can strengthen us if we do not run from them? How so?
3. There are several gifts in this movie. At the end the gifts will be revealed. Find as many gifts as you can throughout the movie.

The Great Santini: (PG)



1. How did the father's success as a military aviator contrast with his shortcomings as a husband and father?
2. How did the father treat his family?
3. Do you think the father was happy with his relationships with his family?
4. What did they need from him that he was not giving them?

Hoosiers: (PG)



1. When Rade broke the four passes before taking a shot rule, Coach Dale sat him, playing only four (4) players the rest of the game. In turn the coach was booed out of the gym. Why do you think he thought it was so important to stick to the rule?
2. The coach told the team's "star" player "I don't care if you play or not." What do you think the risks are when we speak the truth to people in our lives?
3. At the end of the movie, coach says, "focus on your fundamentals, if you play to the best of your ability, I don't care what the scoreboard says at the end of the game, in my book, we are going to be winners." What do you think matters more, winning or giving it your all?

Megamind: (PG)



1. People judged Megamind on his looks, his past, and his behavior. But his persona did not match his inner desire to be loved by others. Do you feel like sometimes people just see your actions and judge what's going on in your heart?
2. Although Megamind was poorly shaped by his environment and was seemingly destined to be evil forever, he overcame his upbringing and changed. How did people react to his change of behavior?
3. The movie ends with the moral, "Destiny is not the path given to us, but the path we choose for ourselves." Do you think you can choose your path despite your past?

Secondhand Lions: (PG)



1. What kind of relationship does Walter have with his mother? What seems to be missing from his life?
2. Who first taught you how to love yourself? Who first encouraged you to develop your unique talents and abilities?
3. What legacy do you want to leave behind?

Where the Wild Things Are: (PG)



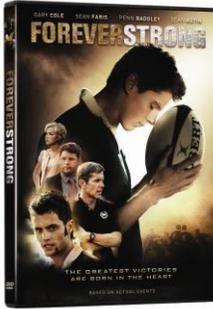
1. What are your thoughts about why I chose to show this movie?
2. Do you feel like you have something in common with Max?
3. Why does the sad howling from the monsters make Max feel a little happy?
4. K.W. says to Max, "It's hard being a family." Have you ever felt this way?

The Blind Side: (PG-13)



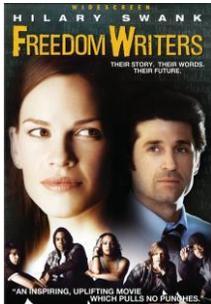
1. What are some various trust issues that exist for Michael and how does he overcome them?
2. What does the word "family" mean?
3. Other than the assistance of the Tuohy family- what helps Michael be able to not allow his past to hold him back from his future?
What does it take to be able to overcome obstacles in life?

Forever Strong: (PG-13)



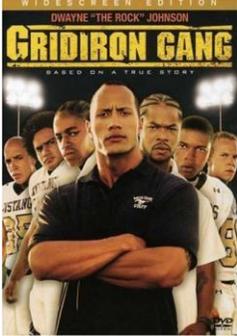
1. What messages did Rick's dad (coach) send?
2. What was Rick's attitude when he first entered the juvenile facility?
3. What all did Rick learn from the Highland Team?
4. Why was it important to Rick to forgive his dad?

Freedom Writers: (PG-13)



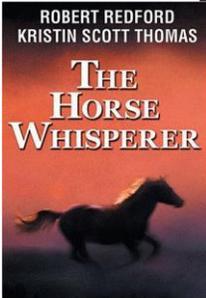
1. Have any of you been stereotyped as an “unteachable” student? How did it make you feel? Do you believe you are “unteachable?”
2. In the movie Marcus talks about how the family that sheltered Anne Frank is a hero. What qualities make someone a hero/idol?
3. What message did you take from this movie?

Grid Iron Gang: (PG-13)



1. What do you think made the team successful?
2. What is the significance of Sean telling the kids “On the grid we do it my way, not your way”?
3. What is tough love? Do you think your parents use tough love on you?
4. What character can you relate to the most? Why?

Horse Whisperer: (PG-13)



1. How did Grace and Pilgrims accident affect their relationship? Why do you think it affected them in this way?
2. Why do you think the horse reacted this way to the experience?
3. What needed to happen to mend their hearts and restore their relationship?

Pay it Forward: (PG-13)



1. Think back to the last time when you were surprised or overwhelmed by someone's act of kindness toward you. Were you able to accept this deed with grace or was it difficult for you to express your gratitude?
2. Discuss the ways in which cynicism in our society has tarnished our openness to acts of selflessness, courtesy, and generosity.
3. If you were to initiate a "pay it forward" project, where would you begin?

The Pursuit of Happiness: (PG-13)



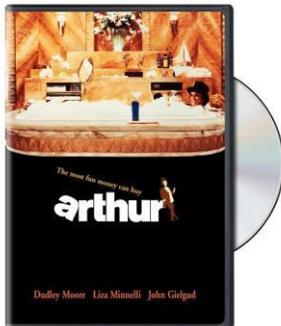
1. What would have been different for Chris in this same situation if he didn't have his son, Christopher, to care for?
2. What appears to be the most difficult aspect for Chris and his son as they use emergency shelters?
3. What do you think keeps Chris going when he hits 'bottom' in his situation

Akeelah the Bee: (PG)



1. In order to “fit in” with her peers Akeelah tried to cover up who she really was. How do you think holding back your abilities and talents could negatively affect your life and the lives of those around you?
2. How do you handle the pressure to conform and fit in with others? How would you recommend others deal with this kind of stress?
3. Was it right for Mr. Welch to push Akeelah into the spelling bee? What were his motives? Has anyone ever pushed you to do something that you yourself did not think you could do?

Arthur: (PG)



1. Why do Arthur’s dad and grandmother want him to marry Susan if he isn’t in love with her? Are they looking out for Arthur’s future or their own?
2. Arthur has a closer relationship with Hobson than his own father. What does Hobson offer Arthur that he needs from his own dad?
3. Why is Hobson’s death so devastating to Arthur? How does this loss impact his decision on who he is going to marry?

Believe in Me: (PG)



1. Why does Coach Clay decide to stay and take on the seemingly impossible task of coaching the Lady Cyclones?
2. What were some of the challenges that Coach Clay and team faced as they began working together?
3. How did Coach Clay and the girls overcome these challenges and eventually win the State Championship? What did they have to do to achieve the victory? Was it easy?

Despicable Me: (PG)



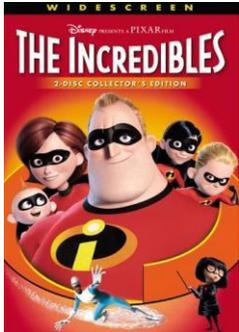
1. Gru wanted to be the best super-villain on the planet. Why would someone want to be a villain?
2. Throughout the film Gru had flashbacks, remembering times when he tried to impress his mother. How did his mother respond to his success? How did this affect Gru?
3. As the movie progressed Gru became more tender and soft. What do you think caused this change in his heart?

Freaky Friday: (PG)



1. If you could trade places with any one of your family members who would you want to be and why?
2. What do you think your parent's would learn after living a week in your shoes?
3. What do you think you might discover about your parents after living a week in their shoes?

The Incredibles: (PG)



1. In what ways are the Incredible family members flawed? How did this affect the way you related to the characters?
2. What attitudes does Mr. Incredible have towards his superpowers, his work, his family and the rest of the world? What does he learn?
3. How would you describe the dynamics of the Incredible family? How do things change during the course of the film? What brings about the changes?

Kung Fu Panda: (PG)



1. Nobody believes in Po, including himself, nobody except Master Oogway. He is rejected by the other Masters and treated as an inferior, insignificant, worthless panda. How did Master Oogway's faith in Po launch him into success?
2. What is something you would like to do that you haven't done because you don't think you can?
3. What can you do to accomplish your goal?

Matilda: (PG)



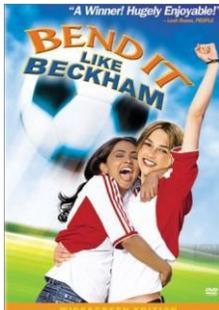
1. How would you describe Matilda's relationship with her parents?
2. What were some of the hurtful things that her family and teacher did to her?
3. What did Matilda receive from her relationship with Miss Honey that she didn't get from her own family?

Up: (PG)



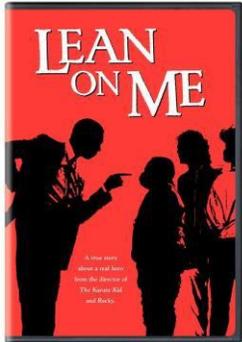
1. In what ways was Carl and Ellie's marriage an adventure? Do you think this is true of some relationships in reality? In what ways?
2. Why do you think Carl found it difficult to let go of his house? How did it affect him when he did? What are some of the things that hinder us from pursuing our dreams?
3. What do you think the film is saying about how we should live our lives?

Bend It like Beckham: (PG-13)



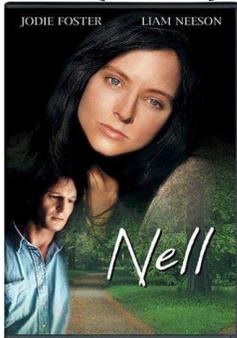
1. Where do you draw the line between living up to your parents' expectations and living your own life? What does this movie have to say about it?
2. Jess' parents made mistakes in their attempts to parent their children, but they also had a real strength. What was the strength?
3. What were some of their mistakes? How did Jess' parents make things right toward the end of the movie?

Lean on Me: (PG-13)



1. Although Principal Clark achieved many important results, that does not mean his leadership methods are ideal. What are some examples of this?
2. How might his leadership style be improved?
3. What is the most important lesson that you might take away from this story?

Nell: (PG-13)



1. How did the death of Nell's twin sister's death affect her? Have you ever lost someone who you were closed to and it still affects you today?
2. Dr. Olsen believed that it would be best for Nell to be sent to an institution, where she can be helped and her language studied but Dr. Lovell believed that Nell was neither mentally subnormal nor unhappy, and should be left to get on with her life in her familiar environment. Where either of them right? Why or why not?
3. Why couldn't Nell stay in the backwood's cabin in the woods after her mother died? Would she have been able to survive on her own? What needs are impossible for us to meet on our own?