Learning through Empathy Discussion Questions
Elementary Level

GENERAL DISCUSSION OF EMPATHY

01. How would you define empathy? Is it different from sympathy? Can you explain or give an example of the difference?

02. Have you experienced empathy or seen someone being empathetic? It could be from your parents, siblings, classmates, teachers, or friends. Describe the experience and how it made you feel.

03. Is empathy something you see or experience on a daily basis?

04. Who is the most empathetic person you know? How does it make you feel to be around this person?

05. How does a family, a classroom, and a society benefit from empathy?

06. Do you think empathy is a quality we value in our families, in our classrooms or in our society? If so, how? If not, why?

07. In our everyday activities, such as watching TV and movies, playing a video game, reading a book, or interacting with social media, where do you see the most empathy and the least amount of empathy?

08. Do you think there are negative associations with empathy? Can it be seen as a weakness? Is it possible to have too much empathy?

09. Is empathy something we can learn or is it innate in human beings?

10. What is the relationship between empathy and justice?

11. Do you try to incorporate empathy into your daily life? How do you do this?

DISCUSSION OF EMPATHY IN THE FILM

12. What role did empathy play in the lives of the characters in the film?

13. Did characters in the film show empathy? Give specific examples.

14. Did you see other examples of empathy in the film?

15. Were there times when you found it difficult to empathize with specific characters in the film? If so, which ones and why?

16. A film can give us a small glimpse into someone's life, but it does not allow us to truly "live" their experiences. How do we empathize with experiences we've never had ourselves?

17. Why do you think the filmmaker has chosen to tell this story? Does storytelling derive from empathy?

18. Do you think the filmmaker is asking you to incorporate empathy into your life?