

Learning through Empathy Discussion Questions

Secondary Level

GENERAL DISCUSSION OF EMPATHY

01. How would you define empathy? How is it different than sympathy or pity? Discuss how one exercises empathy versus sympathy or pity.
02. What would you define as the opposite of empathy?
03. What role has empathy played in your life? Discuss a time when you have experienced empathy or witnessed empathy. How did it make you feel?
04. Is empathy something you see or experience on a daily basis?
05. Who is the most empathetic person you know? How does it make you feel to be around this person?
06. Is empathy something we can learn or is it innate in human beings?
07. Do you think there are negative associations with empathy? Can it be seen as a weakness? Is it possible to have too much empathy?
08. 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?
09. Do you feel empathy from your parents, teachers, classmates, siblings or friends? If so, discuss a specific experience.
10. How does a family, a classroom, and a society benefit from empathy?
11. 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?
12. Where do you think empathy is missing in our society?
13. What is the relationship between empathy and justice?
14. Do you try to incorporate empathy into your daily life? How do you do this?

DISCUSSION OF EMPATHY IN THE FILM

15. Where did you see empathy in the film? Give specific examples.
16. What role did empathy play in the lives of the characters in the film?
17. How do the characters in the film show examples of empathy?
18. Were there times when you found it difficult to empathize with specific characters in the film? If so, which ones and why?
19. 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?
20. Why do you think the filmmaker has chosen to tell this story? Does storytelling derive from empathy?
21. How does the filmmaker ask you to incorporate empathy into your life?