

THE ONLY WAY DISCUSSION QUESTIONS FOR PARENTS, TEACHERS, AND STUDENTS

*These questions are provided to encourage discussion of **The Only Way** and to help develop a better understanding of the issues the filmmakers present in the film.*

BEFORE THE FILM...

1. What do you think are the causes of violence at school? What reasons could push someone "over the edge"?
2. Is bullying a problem at your school? If so, why do you think it is and what do you think should be done to stop and prevent it?
3. Who do you think is affected by violence at school?
4. What do you think the consequences of a school shooting are?

AFTER THE FILM...

5. Why was Devon bullied? Was bullying the only reason for his actions? How would you feel if you were tormented in the same way as Devon?
6. Why were the students with the trench coats also bullied? What did they have in common with Devon? What (or who) do their characters symbolize?
7. How was Devon affected by the tragedy in his family?
8. Why do you think Devon quit the baseball team? How might Coach Roberts' reaction have affected Devon?

9. Does Devon have any friends? Who are they and why are they his friends? Why are others not? Why are friendships important? Why are they sometimes difficult?
10. Why does Josh act the way he does toward Devon?
11. Why do you think Devon smashed the window in Stan's truck?
12. What does the baseball bat (and even the game of baseball itself) symbolize in the film?
13. What does the dream sequence in which Devon "shoots himself" symbolize?
14. Did the film's editing style help the audience "get inside" Devon's "corrupted" mind? If so, how and why was it effective?
15. How might it have been different if Devon did not have easy access to guns in his house? Would that have prevented the shooting? Why or why not?
16. Why did Devon contemplate suicide? What do you think would have happened if he had committed suicide? How would it have affected those around him?
17. How do Josh and Jamie react and feel about the accident that killed Devon's brother?
18. Why did Lauren break up with Devon? If she had not broken up with him, would it have prevented the shooting?
19. Do you think Devon's parents, especially his dad, did wrong? Could changes at home have prevented the shooting?
20. Did Mrs. Good do anything in the film that could have been one reason for Devon's violent actions? Why do you think the screenwriter named her "Mrs. Good"?
21. Why is Kevin, Devon's brother, so important to Devon and the story?

22. What reasons did Devon give on his tape for committing the crimes?
23. What does the sequence at the end of the movie when Devon comes down stairs and Josh, Stan, Lauren, Rachel, Michael, and Mr. Hill are in his living room symbolize? What does it symbolize when he looks back and they are gone?
24. What were Devon's reasons for murdering each of his victims? How did Devon's acts affect the victims' families, his family, and himself?
25. How did the victims haunt Devon? What did they help him realize?
26. What does the final scene of the movie when the students with the trench coats throw the gun into the creek mean?
27. What have you learned from the film about the causes, effects, and consequences of school violence?
28. How can such violence be prevented? Can the causes be eliminated? If so, how?
29. Can violence in music, movies, and video games influence someone so much that they would commit murder? Was Devon influenced by music, movies, and video games? If so, how?
30. Can being bullied force someone to result to murder? Can such bullying be tolerated? How or why not?
31. What issues in the film added up to result of Devon resorting to murder?
32. What is the meaning behind the title "The Only Way"?
33. What did Edgecreek High School do wrong in the film? Could changes in the school have prevented the shooting? If so, what could have been done?

34. Do you think Devon would have been considered an “at risk” student for committing such a violent crime?
35. How does the beginning quote, “IN SPITE OF EVERYTHING I STILL BELIEVE THAT PEOPLE ARE REALLY GOOD AT HEART” by Anne Frank, relate to the film’s theme?

NOTES...

Contact an Account Representative at **1-888-896-1031 x704** or **sales@1031pictures.com** for more information about showing **THE ONLY WAY** at your school or organization.

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