



Discussion Questions for Parents, Teachers, and Students

***The Only Way* presents many problems in our society that deserve closer examination by parents, teachers, and students. It is very important to discuss these questions together and build a better understanding of the film and the social and emotional problems seen in it.**

BEFORE THE FILM

1. What do you think are the causes of school violence? What reasons would push someone over the edge?
2. Is there bullying in your school? Why do you think there is? What can be done to deter it?
3. How do you think the effects of school violence affect others?
4. What do you think the consequences of such violence are?

AFTER THE FILM

1. Why was Devon bullied? Was bullying the only reason behind the shooting? How did this affect him? How would YOU feel if you were tormented in the same way as Devon?
2. Why were the students with the trench coats also bullied? What did they have in common with Devon? What do their characters symbolize?
3. How was Devon affected by the tragedy in his family?
4. Why do you think Devon quit the baseball team? How might Coach Roberts' reaction have affected Devon?
5. 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?
6. Why does Josh act the way he does toward Devon?
7. Why did Devon break the window in Stan's truck?
8. What does the baseball bat and the game of baseball itself symbolize in the film?
9. What does the dream sequence in which Devon is shot and the gunman is revealed symbolize?
10. Did the film's editing style help the audience "get inside" Devon's "corrupted" mind? If so, how and why was it effective?
11. How might it have been different if Devon did not have easy access to guns in his house? Would that have prevented the shooting or could he have gotten them from somewhere else?
12. Why would Devon contemplate suicide? What do you think would have happened if he

**For more about the film from directors David Zimmerman III and Levi Steven Obery go to
WWW.THEONLYWAYMOVIE.COM on the Internet.**

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- had committed suicide? How would it have affected others?
13. How do Josh and Jamie react and feel about the accident?
 14. Why did Lauren break up with Devon? If she had not broken up with him, would it have prevented the shooting?
 15. What do you think Devon's parents, especially his dad, did wrong? Could changes at home prevented the shooting?
 16. Did Mrs. Good do anything wrong in the film that could have been one reason for Devon's violent act? Why do you think the screenwriter named her "Mrs. Good"?
 17. Why is Kevin, Devon's brother, so important to Devon and the story?
 18. What reasons did Devon give on his tape for committing the crime?
 19. 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?
 20. What were Devon's reasons behind shooting each of his victims? How did Devon's acts of murder affect the victims' families, his family, and himself?
 21. How did the victims haunt Devon? What did they help him realize?
 22. What does the final scene of the movie symbolize?
 23. What have you learned from the film about the causes, effects, and consequences of school violence?
 24. How can such violence be prevented? Can the causes be eliminated, if so, how?
 25. 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?
 26. Can being bullied force someone to result to murder?
 27. Can such bullying be tolerated? How or why not?
 28. What issues in the film added up to result of Devon resorting to murder?
 29. What is the meaning behind the title *The Only Way*?
 30. 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?
 31. Do you think Devon would have been considered an "at risk" student for committing such a violent crime?
 32. 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?

It is very important for you to tell your teacher, parents, or guidance counselor if you or you know someone that might be considered "at risk" so they can get help before it is too late.

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