



EIGHTH GRADE DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

By Walt Mueller

Discussion Questions for the film *Eighth Grade*:

The 2018 film *Eighth Grade*, written and directed by Bo Burnham, follows the life and struggles of an eighth-grader as she wrestles with and prepares for the transition to high school. At CPYU we believe this film provides a great perspective of many of the realities that today's middle schoolers face. We suggest getting together with other parents, youth workers, parents or others who live with and minister to middle schoolers to view the film for yourself. It will provide a glimpse into the everyday pressures students feel to fit in. Below are several questions you can use to help prompt a discussion after viewing the film.

Does *Eighth Grade* offer an accurate picture of adolescent life and transitions?

What was the strongest emotion you felt while watching the film?

What is one aspect of adolescent life depicted in the film that was new to you?

Did anything that occurred in the film remind you of something that you have had to address with students/families in your current ministry?

What are the three main issues you would address in ministry to Kayla?

What issues does the film raise that you are not currently addressing in your ministry that you must begin addressing in your ministry?

How can the film be used in your current ministry setting?

(Any uses with students? Parents? Church staff? Youth Ministry staff?)

Questions for Ministry Application/Action: (from *Practical Theology* by Richard Osmer)

Task 1: The Descriptive-Empirical Task...
which asks, 'What is going on?'

Task 2: The Interpretive Task...
which asks, 'Why is it going on?'

Task 3: The Normative Task...
which asks, 'What ought to be going on?'

Task 4: The Pragmatic Task...
which asks, 'How might we respond?'

