



LITTLE MISS SUNSHINE

Discussion questions:

1. How did you like the movie? Have you seen this movie before?
2. What do you think is unique about this film? What scene do you remember and why?
3. Let's have a look at the characters. With whom would you identify? Do they remind you of some people you know?
 - a. Why could it be that Richard is so obsessed by winning?
 - b. How does that affect Olive? And Dwayne?
 - c. How does Frank change during the film?
 - d. And what about Sheryl, the mother of Olive and Dwayne?
 - e. What encouragement did Edwin (the Grandpa) give to others? Did it surprise you?
 - f. How were their lives changed in terms of faith and attitude?
4. Two philosophers are mentioned in the movie: Friedrich Nietzsche and Marcel Proust. What lessons do the characters learn from them?
5. After her grandfather died, Olive asks Frank, if he thinks there is a Heaven. How does he reply? Was he comforting her? Or himself? Do you think his work as an academic shaped his response in some way?
6. How did you feel about the contestants in the Little Miss Sunshine pageant? What could be observed? What qualities do you appreciate in others?
7. Have you ever experienced change of objectives or goals in life after something you went through? Did you have someone to support you?

"Without all the things we loved about the film - the raunchy language, the outrageous behavior - it would have been the perfect family comedy," says its co-director Valerie Faris. "But we wanted to make a film not about family values, but about the value of family."

Frank about Marcel Proust: Anyway, he uh... he gets down to the end of his life, and he looks back and decides that all those years he suffered, Those were the best years of his life, 'cause they made him who he was. All those years he was happy? You know, total waste. Didn't learn a thing. So, if you sleep until you're 18... Ah, think of the suffering you're gonna miss. I mean high school? High school-those are your prime suffering years. You don't get better suffering than that.

Grandpa: Losers are people who are so afraid of not winning, they don't even try.