

A Lion in the House

a film by Steven Bognar & Julia Reichert

Discussion Questions

HOW TO HELP YOUR BUDDY

Warning to discussion leader: The clips and discussion questions may cause strong emotional reactions in youth who have experienced, or are currently experiencing cancer in their families. It may be helpful to know which youth may be vulnerable prior to the viewing. These youth will be able to offer a deeper understanding of the issues. Sensitivity is required.

PRE-VIEWING

How important are your friends to you right now, at this stage of your life?

How would you feel if something out of your control happened to that made your friends go away?

Why do you think that cancer may sometimes have this effect?

Alternative question to youth who have or had cancer: How do/did your friends support you?

Is cancer contagious?

POST-VIEWING

Why doesn't Tim want to go to school?

What does Tim think that the kids at school think of him?

Why does Tim drink?

What do you think of this way of keeping his mind off things?

(Optional) What do *you* do to get your mind away from difficult thoughts?

Is Tim's job important to him?

What does Tim want to do with his life now? In the future? Why does he feel this way?

How does Jen's treatment affect her IQ score?

Why does Jen need a tutor?

Jen's mother says that she has to be "an advocate" for Jen. What does it mean to be an advocate for someone else?

Question for cancer patient: Do schools make it easy or hard? How?

Does Al get a tutor?

How do you feel about that?

How does Al feel about himself after treatment? What was the most important thing he learned?

What seems to be the hardest part of re-entering school after cancer treatment?

Question to cancer patient: What is the best thing somebody else did for you when you were fighting cancer?

What could *you* do to help a friend or classmate get through cancer treatment and return to school?

You can make a difference

"You know you are truly alive
when you are living among lions."
— Isak Dinesen