

edge of seventeen parents guide

Edge of Seventeen Parents Guide: Navigating the Themes and Content of a Coming-of-Age Film

The film "Edge of Seventeen," directed by Kelly Fremon Craig, is a coming-of-age story that touches upon the complexities of adolescence, friendship, and the challenges of growing up. As parents, understanding the themes, content, and messages conveyed in this film is crucial for guiding discussions with your teens. This article serves as a comprehensive Edge of Seventeen Parents Guide to help you decide if this film is appropriate for your family.

Overview of the Film

"Edge of Seventeen" follows 17-year-old Nadine Franklin, played by Hailee Steinfeld, as she navigates the tumultuous waters of high school. The film is marked by its realistic portrayal of teenage angst, familial relationships, and the struggle for identity. Nadine feels isolated, especially after her best friend begins dating her older brother, causing her to question her friendships and self-worth.

Key Themes

1. Friendship and Betrayal: The film highlights the importance of friendships in adolescence, illustrating how these relationships can evolve. Nadine's betrayal by her best friend serves as a pivotal moment, prompting her to reassess her social circles.
2. Family Dynamics: The strained relationship between Nadine and her mother reflects common family struggles. The film explores themes of communication, understanding, and generational conflict.
3. Identity and Self-Discovery: A significant aspect of the narrative is Nadine's journey towards self-acceptance and understanding who she is outside of her relationships with others.
4. Mental Health: The film touches on issues of anxiety and depression, showcasing how these challenges can manifest during teenage years.

Content Analysis

When considering the appropriateness of "Edge of Seventeen," it is essential to analyze the film's content, including language, violence, sexual content, and substance use.

Language

The film contains a moderate amount of strong language, including:

- Frequent use of the f-word
- Other profanities and slang terms that may not be suitable for younger audiences

Parents may want to discuss the impact of language choices and the context in which they are used.

Violence

There are no significant violent scenes in "Edge of Seventeen." However, there are moments of emotional distress and conflict that may be unsettling for some viewers. Parents should be prepared to address any emotional reactions their teens may have in response to these conflicts.

Sexual Content

The film includes:

- Discussions about sex and relationships
- A few suggestive scenes, including kissing and mild sexual innuendos

While the film does not contain explicit sexual content, it does touch upon the complexities of teenage relationships. Parents may want to use these moments as opportunities for discussions about healthy relationships and consent.

Substance Use

There are instances of alcohol consumption depicted in the film:

- A party scene where underage drinking occurs
- References to drinking as a coping mechanism

Parents should discuss the portrayal of substance use in the film and its implications, especially regarding peer pressure and making responsible choices.

Character Analysis

Understanding the characters in "Edge of Seventeen" can help parents facilitate meaningful conversations with their teens.

Nadine Franklin (Hailee Steinfeld)

Nadine is a complex character embodying the struggles of adolescence. Her insecurities, emotional outbursts, and desire for acceptance make her relatable to many teens. Parents can discuss:

- Nadine's coping mechanisms and their effectiveness
- Her growth throughout the film and what it teaches about resilience

Krista (Ayla Kell)

Nadine's best friend, Krista, represents the challenges of change in friendships. Her decision to date Nadine's brother strains their relationship. Parents may want to explore:

- The dynamics of friendship and loyalty
- The impact of jealousy and insecurity on relationships

Darien Franklin (Blake Jenner)

Darien, Nadine's older brother, is portrayed as a typical high school jock. His relationship with Krista causes tension with Nadine. Discussions can include:

- The importance of sibling relationships
- How assumptions about people can lead to misunderstandings

Mother (Kyra Sedgwick)

Nadine's mother embodies the struggles of parenting a teenager. Their relationship is fraught with miscommunication. Parents can talk about:

- The challenges of parenting during adolescence
- The importance of open dialogues between parents and teens

Positive Messages

Despite its challenges, "Edge of Seventeen" ultimately conveys several positive messages:

1. **Self-Acceptance:** Nadine learns to embrace her individuality, teaching viewers the importance of being true to oneself.
2. **Resilience:** The film emphasizes the ability to overcome adversity and the importance of seeking help when needed.
3. **Empathy and Understanding:** It encourages viewers to consider the perspectives of others, fostering empathy in relationships.

Discussion Points for Parents and Teens

Engaging in discussions after watching "Edge of Seventeen" can enhance understanding and strengthen the parent-teen relationship. Here are some suggested discussion points:

- How do you relate to Nadine's experiences? Are there moments that resonate with you?
- What are your thoughts on the portrayal of friendships in the film?
- How do you handle conflicts with friends or family?
- What did you think about the way the film addressed mental health?
- How can we communicate better about our feelings and challenges?

Conclusion

In conclusion, the Edge of Seventeen Parents Guide serves as a valuable tool for parents to navigate the complexities of this coming-of-age film. By understanding the themes, content, and characters, parents can engage in meaningful conversations with their teens, helping them process the film's messages and relate them to their own lives. Watching this film together can be an opportunity not just for entertainment but also for growth and understanding in the parent-teen dynamic.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the main theme of 'Edge of Seventeen'?

'Edge of Seventeen' explores themes of adolescence, friendship, and the challenges of teenage life, including issues of identity and family dynamics.

Is 'Edge of Seventeen' appropriate for younger audiences?

The film is rated R, which suggests it may not be suitable for younger viewers due to mature themes, language, and some sexual content.

What kind of parental guidance is recommended for 'Edge of Seventeen'?

Parents are advised to discuss the film's themes with their children and consider watching it together to provide context for its more mature elements.

Are there any strong language or sexual content in 'Edge of Seventeen'?

Yes, the film contains strong language and some sexual content, which contributes to its R rating.

How does 'Edge of Seventeen' portray family relationships?

'Edge of Seventeen' presents complex family relationships, particularly focusing on the protagonist's relationship with her parents and how it affects her social life.

What lessons can teens learn from 'Edge of Seventeen'?

Teens can learn about the importance of communication, understanding, and resilience in dealing with friendships and family issues.

Is there any substance use depicted in the film?

Yes, there are instances of underage drinking depicted in 'Edge of Seventeen', which could be a point of discussion for parents.

How does the film address issues of bullying?

'Edge of Seventeen' addresses bullying by showing the protagonist's struggles with fitting in and the impact of social dynamics in high school.

What age group is 'Edge of Seventeen' best suited for?

The film is best suited for older teens and young adults due to its mature content and themes.

Are there positive role models in 'Edge of Seventeen'?

Yes, the film features characters who navigate their challenges and support each other, showcasing positive aspects of friendship and personal growth.

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