

SUGGESTED POINTS FOR *WASTE OF CANDY* STUDY GUIDE

Character names:

Jim.....Pizza shop owner
Duane....belligerent man
Pattymom
Kristylittle girl

Students these days are experienced, savvy viewers of filmed media and they are sensitive to the subtleties of film language. Educators may want to encourage students to talk about the film itself to get the discussion going.

This guide starts with simple questions about the film and progresses to engage students about the larger issues involved.

UNDERSTANDING THE MOVIE

- From what point of view do we experience the film?
 - Jim's point of view.
- What clues does Jim have to indicate the couple may be drunk?
 - Duane's speech is slurred. He is belligerent and somewhat incoherent at the pizza counter. His sense of time is off. He staggers.
 - Patty doesn't react to Kristy dropping the candy.
 - Patty seems to be in her own world. She completely ignores Jim when he offers candy to Kristy.
- Why does Jim offer fresh candy to Kristy?
 - He wants to help her somehow because Patty and Duane are acting strangely.
- How does Jim react when he hears the couple is driving?
 - With concern.
- Turning Point: Jim stands at the window watching Kristy walk with her mom and boyfriend to the car. At this point, we think Jim makes the critical decision to go out and say something to them. Later, we realize Jim stays frozen at the window and the whole middle part is Jim thinking about what might have happened if he chose to act. What clues are there that Jim doesn't go outside?
 - Abrupt cut from Jim inside at the window to Jim outside at the car.
 - In Jim's imagination he is lit with warm, yellow light while the couple is lit with cool, blue light.
 - When the film cuts back to Jim inside at the window it starts at the same place it left off: with Kristy about to disappear around the corner.
 - Jim shows no marks on his face from the fight.
 - The film ends on the accident that couldn't have happened if Jim had stopped the couple from driving drunk.
- Resolution: The scenario Jim imagines seems overwhelming and Jim decides to mind his own business and not intervene. As a result, the couple crashed into a tree. What happened to Kristy?
 - She died in the accident.

FILM-RELATED DISCUSSION TOPICS

- Should Jim have gone outside and tried to stop the couple from driving? Why or why not? (Compare responses here to responses when this question is asked again at the end of discussion.)
- If Jim did go outside, what steps would be appropriate for him to take?
- What steps did Jim imagine he might take?
 - Ask the couple if he could call them a cab.
 - Insist that he call them a cab.

- Tell them to "wait here."
 - Call the police.
 - Get angry with Duane when he saw Kristy at the window.
 - Run outside, throw Duane out of the way and grab Kristy.
 - Hold Kristy until the police arrived.
- What consequences did Jim imagine if he went outside?
 - The couple might not be drunk.
 - They might be belligerent.
 - Kristy might not want his help.
 - Jim might be assaulted or get into a fight.
 - Jim might go too far and he, himself, might get in trouble with the police.
 - Kristy might be taken away from her mother.
 - Why does Kristy ask Jim to "please leave us alone"?
 - Kids often feel what happens around them is somehow their fault. Kristy feels her connection with Jim is pulling him into the situation.
 - Kristy has been through this before. If the volatile couple gets stirred up, there will be trouble.
 - If Jim just leaves them alone, chances are they will make it home okay. They've made it home before lots of times.
 - Jim says he's sorry to Kristy because, at this point, he doesn't feel he should stop.
 - Jim wants to help Kristy. What changes his mind so he doesn't go outside?
 - He imagines his actions might rip apart the family.
 - Did Jim ever imagine what might happen if he didn't go outside?
 - No.
 - The film makes the point: If you take a stand against drinking and driving it can be difficult and things might go wrong, but you must weigh the possibilities if you don't act.
 - If Jim's imagination had told him Kristy might die, do you think he might have acted? Why or why not?
 - If Jim had acted, would he have been considered to be sticking his nose in where it didn't belong? Why or why not?
 - In real life we can't know how things might have turned out if we made other choices. What advantage does a film have?
 - Films can dramatically explore both sides of a situation.
 - In the film, Jim had only a few seconds to decide if he would act or not, then the opportunity passed. Have you ever been in a similar situation? What happened?
 - We have this chance now to think about what we could do if we were in Jim's shoes. The next time that you have the opportunity to stop someone from drinking and driving, what will you do?
 - Why did the filmmakers call this film ***Waste of Candy***?
 - Jim wanted to help Kristy but, if he didn't do something when it really counted, his gesture with the candy was a waste.
 - The sweetness of a young life was wasted in a preventable accident.***
 - Explore how the situation might have been different if...
 - ...Patty and Duane were well dressed and driving an expensive car.
 - ...the race and/or gender of the characters were changed. Possibilities include Jim, Duane, Patty, Kristy and the policeman.
 - Should Jim have gone outside and tried to stop the couple from driving? Why or why not? (Compare responses here to responses when this question was first asked.)

BROAD DISCUSSION TOPICS

If you see something happening that you feel is wrong do you have a social responsibility to do something about it? This is a difficult question, often without a clear-cut answer.

1. On a personal level:
 - a. What are the pluses and minuses about trying to help a friend that is abusing alcohol or drugs?
 - b. What should you do if a relative drives to your house for dinner and has too much beer or wine to drink?
 - c. What makes it difficult to cross social boundaries?
2. On a socio-political level:
 - a. Should the U.S. have acted prior to World War II when Nazi Germany invaded Poland?
 - b. What should the U.S. do if a civil war in Somalia causes massive deaths due to starvation?
3. On a philosophical level:
 - a. Filmed media has tremendous power to present a particular point of view.
 - 1) Do you feel this film fairly portrayed some of the issues of drinking and driving?
 - 2) Did you have the sense that this film was based on a true story?
4. Altruism is the willingness to act in ways that help others without any hidden self-interest or motive. Altruistic behavior tends to be generous and compassionate. Is stopping someone from drinking and driving an act of altruism?
5. Tolerance is the concept of not interfering with something you might find disagreeable or unpleasant but that is legal and does not hurt you or others. Should drinking and driving be tolerated in our society? Why or why not?
6. Essay Question: Do you have a responsibility to help stop drinking and driving? Why or why not?

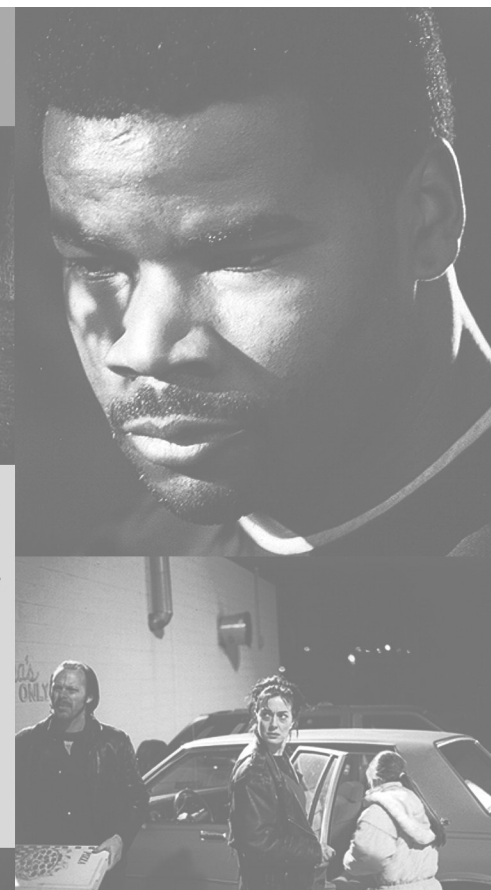


TMW MEDIA GROUP
2321 Abbot Kinney Blvd., Venice, CA 90291
(310) 577-8581 Fax (310) 574-0886
Email: sale@tmwmedia.com
Web: www.tmwmedia.com

L9801DVD



Waste
of
Candy



**TEENS – Making the
RIGHT CHOICES & the
Consequences of Making
the WRONG DECISIONS**

Teachers Guide