

## **TALKFEST *THE FALLOUT* - MARCH 31st, 2023 - 18:30h - IEN**

As the name TalkFest suggests, it is our intention for everyone to be able to participate and decide which of the issues raised by the movie they find most engaging. It is in the hope of enriching the conversation that we are providing some additional resources and questions, not as required reading or points to be followed but as food for thought.

### **Additional Resources**

- [Active Shooter Safety Resources](#) | The FBI's "Run. Hide. Fight." training program that student's in Vada's school are seen studying after the shooting.
- [Key Facts about Americans and Guns](#) | Pew Research Center
- [Why the Second Amendment may be losing relevance in gun debate](#) | ABC News - Guns in America

### **Food for Thought**

1. The protagonist, Vada, and her best friend Nick react in very different ways to the experience of the shooting. How would the film have been different if it were told from Nick's point of view?
2. Although we hear the gunshots and see the blood on Quinton's shirt, we don't see any images of the actual shooting. Why do you think the filmmakers made this choice? How does this affect our experience of the story?
3. We don't know anything about the shooter or his motives. Why do you think the filmmakers chose to leave out this information? When Vada asks Nick, "Why do you think he did it?" Nick responds, "I don't know, is there ever a reason?" How are we meant to interpret his answer?
4. Shortly before the shooting, Amelia texts Vada to tell her she just got her first period. How is this symbolic? What about the choice of title?
5. We see the development of many different relationships in Vada's life: with her friends Nick, Quinton and Mia, with her sister, her mother, her father, and even her therapist. What does she get out of each relationship? How does each help her move forward? Or not?
6. Would Mia and Vada ever have become friends if it weren't for the shooting? Why does the incident cause some people to bond and others, such as Vada and Nick, to drift apart? Why do you think Vada chooses not to accompany Nick to the march?
7. Vada says she doesn't tell her parents anything because they worry. But is this the entire truth? Or does the fact that she says she "feels nothing" and also tells her therapist that she is good at managing her emotions suggest otherwise?

8. How does Vada's relationship with her parents compare to Mia's? Why does she feel she has to hide from her family? Why is she unable to communicate to them what she is feeling and going through?
9. Why does Vada's reaction to the shooting include using drugs and alcohol?
10. In many ways the movie is a classic coming-of-age story, but it is also set in a very specific point in time defined by TikTok, certain TV shows, trends, memes, and other cultural points of reference. Could you relate to Vada's adolescence despite it being pointedly modern? In what ways?
11. Given that guns are not well-regulated in the U.S., are metal detectors at schools and shooter drills as a part of school life a reasonable solution? How might these measures affect students?
12. Amelia mentions getting a bulletproof backpack. However, such products may not be effective against the kind of assault rifles used in many school shootings. Are the companies that produce them providing added security and much needed peace of mind or simply exploiting fears about gun violence to turn a profit?
13. Some school districts are looking to make schools safer by arming teachers. Would more weapons on school premises make schools safer or more dangerous?
14. Why do you think the movie ends with the news of another school shooting?

**TalkFest Project**

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