

13 REASONS WHY--Episode by Episode Discussion Guide

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I finally decided to sit down and watch 13 Reasons Why. With all the buzz it's been getting, both positive and critical in its depiction of suicide and challenging issues, I was not surprised that it is a very provocative and powerful piece of work.

I agree with many of the criticisms that the mental health community has presented—the glamorization of suicide, the lack of information about mental illness, the idea that you can take revenge, placing the blame on others, and the graphic imagery. However, should a teenager watch the program anyway, it is my belief that these discussion questions will help bring better insight and start an important dialog around youth suicide and other challenges that young people face.

Please feel free to pick and choose questions and/or to post other discussion questions that I missed.

Episode 1: Justin

1. **Where to get help:** The show starts off with a bulletin as to where to turn for help if you are feeling depressed or suicidal. This was added after input from the mental health community. Why was there a push for Netflix to add this information? Why didn't they think of adding it in the first place?
2. **Reflections on Social Media:** The show begins with two girls standing by Hannah's locker. One girl says, "She was so pretty." The other girl says, "Totally," They then take a photo and talk about the hashtag they will use to post it. Soon we see other students looking at the selfie. Contrast this first scene with Hannah's use of tape cassettes. Why did Hannah choose cassette tapes? How does social media impact teens day to day lives? Why did the girls post the selfie? What were they trying to convey and or say? In your opinion, was it an authentic expression of grief?
3. **How schools handle the processing of a completed suicide:** Mrs. Bradley is heard going over the warning signs of suicide and where to go to get help. As well, e-mails are being sent to families. One student asks, "Can we be done with all this?" Why do

experts feel it is important to give this information to students? How do you feel a school should handle a completed suicide? What other ways do you see students and/or the school responding to Hannah's death? If you were the principal of the school, what might you do to remember and/or honor Hannah's life?

4. **Authentic friendships:** Discuss the scenes of friendship in the first episode. What do you notice? Which friendships feel the most comfortable or real to you? How do students welcome in or push away real feelings and interactions? What do you notice in your own school?

Hannah and Kat at the party and on the phone

Hannah and Clay at work

Zach and Justin at the party play fighting in the sprinkler

Courtney connecting with Clay over their shared grief

5. **Who is Hannah?** What are your first impressions of Hannah? How does she interact with other kids? Does she appear confident? Is there a difference between her outward presentation and her inner world? If so, what do you notice? How does Hannah convey that she likes Justin?

6. **Who is Clay?** Hannah says to Clay that it takes courage to be a nerd. What does she mean by this? Later, at the basketball game, Clay says that a Tootsie Roll represents all that is good and sweet in the world. Hannah's nickname for Clay is Helmet. What do these scenes tell us about Clay's character? Why does it take courage to be a nerd? Is Clay a nerd? Why does Hannah nickname him Helmet and what is the significance of that name? Imagine Clay in his 20's--What kind-of young man do you think he will be and why? How is Clay being a "nerd" related to the gay rumors that circulated about him? How has he coped with these rumors?

6. **Relationship to Parents:** In this episode, we are introduced to some of the parents. Bryce talks on the phone to his mother assuring her that he is fine and she can stay in Aspen. Hannah's mom is surprised her locker is not decorated. Clay equates his dad's interest in him to the e-mails being sent to parents about Hannah's suicide. Clay's mom tries to initiate a conversation. Tony's dad says he would kill him if he ever committed suicide. What hints do we get about the parents and their relationship with their kids?

7. **Use of alcohol at the party:** Why is Bryce depicted as a "Frat house Darth Vader"? Why does Clay accept an alcoholic drink? How does alcohol use impact the party (could be in both good and bad ways)? What would the party be like if there was no alcohol?

8. **Justin:** Why does Hannah find Justin compelling? What makes him one of the popular kids? Why is Hannah more interested in Justin than Clay? Do you think that Justin is truly interested in Hannah? Why or why not? Why does Justin tell his friends that he did more at the park with Hannah than he actually did? How do you think he feels about the picture being sent around? What do you think would have happened to Hannah and Justin if the photo had not been sent? Is Justin as confident as he appears? Why or why not?

9. **Cell Phones in Class:** As the photo is passed around social media, Mrs. Bradley asks her students to put their devices away and is basically ignored. Why should or shouldn't cell phones be allowed in class? Do you think Mrs. Bradley lost an opportunity to know that something big was going on? How might she have addressed the issue? What are the students learning about in class and how does that contrast with what is going on right under Mrs. Bradley's nose? What does this say about teenagers and adults? Why does Hannah say Mrs. Bradley is clueless?

10. **Hannah and Clay:** At the end of the episode, why is Hannah upset with Clay?

11. **Hannah's mom and cell phone:** Does Hannah's mother have clear rules on cell phone use? If so, what are they? Do you like the way Hannah's mom handles the cell phone use during the homework time situation? How might a cell phone be useful for a teenager? How might it be dangerous or distracting? Should a parent have access to their teen's phone and be aware of what a teen is doing with their phone and on social media? Why or why not?

11. **Knowing Hannah:** Why does Clay repeatedly tell his parents he didn't really know Hannah? Do you think Clay feels guilty or responsible for Hannah's death? If so, do you feel he should place blame on himself? How could this be damaging to Clay? Is Clay at risk and if so what is he at risk for? Was it fair of Hannah to have sent out the tapes and blamed other students for her death?

12. **The complete high school experience:** Hannah says she wants to get the complete high school experience. What does this mean to her? What is the complete high school experience for you?

Episode 2—Jessica

1. **On Friendship Being Complicated:** This episode is about friendship between girls being complicated. Do you think this is true? Do you have friendships that are complicated? Do your parents? What friendships do you have that don't feel complicated?
2. **Groups of Three:** Alex, Jessica and Hannah become the FLM. What about their friendship lifts them up? Have you ever been in a group of three and felt left out? If so, explain. Is there any different ways that Jessica and Alex might have handled the break-up of the threesome?
3. **On Popularity:** Hannah says that Alex traded up. What does she mean by that? What does this tell the viewers about Alex?
4. **The Tapes:** In the tapes Hannah says that if you are listening to the tapes you are one of the people responsible for her death. (*One of the major criticisms of the series is that suicide is a complicated mix of treatable mental illness and other risk factors. Coping with stressful situations can be an added risk factor. The tendency after a completed suicide is for friends and family members to wonder if it is their fault and many non-profit support groups are dedicated to helping survivors*). In your opinion, are the people on the tapes responsible for her death? Does the show, thus far, adequately cover the topic of mental illness?
5. **Bystanders:** Hannah says, "Maybe you just watched it happen and didn't even realize you were being cruel." What is your responsibility as a bystander? What characters in the show witnessed something and didn't intervene? If they had, what could have they done? Might their actions have changed the outcome of the story?
6. **Hannah's changes:** In episode one, we hear Mrs. Bradley mention that one of the risk factors of a student contemplating suicide is sudden changes, giving away things etc. (*In fact, usually a person who is feeling suicidal does show signs and symptoms. However, sometimes these signs and symptoms are hard to detect because they are not seen as part of a bigger picture and/or they mirror typical teen development*). Hannah cuts her hair and quits her job. It is clear that Clay is reviewing these things in his mind and wishing he would have noticed that Hannah was at risk for ending her life. How do people cope after a suicide? How can Clay and other characters such as Hannah's mother stop themselves from blame? What would you say to Hannah's mom and/or to Clay if you could give them a hopeful message?
7. **Clay's family continued:** Clay's parents continue to try and connect with Clay. How do they blow it? What is revealed about the stressors in Clay's family? What are some positive efforts that his family is making?
8. **Sports:** Hannah says, "It's all part of the game. Only it's not a game. Not at all". While she says this Clay is walking into the gym. What does this scene tell us about the role of sports at this high school? What is ironic about Bryce winning the Captain's award?

9. **School Counselor:** Mrs. Entilly is clearly over the top. However, is it true that she doesn't understand how friendships work? Although she goes about it in a very odd way, what does she understand about being new at school? How does she try and reach out? How has it been for you or friends of yours (or your parents when they were young) to be new at school?
10. **Comparing:** Hannah asks Clay if she could ever be as pretty as Jessica. What does this reveal about her inner world? How often do you think young people compare themselves to others? What is it about Jessica that makes Hannah feel like she is perfect? Do you think this happens in the adult world too?
11. **The List:** Why does Alex write the list? What is Hannah's reaction to being on the list? What does this do to her reputation? Why is Jessica upset with Hannah and not Alex? How does Hannah's father minimize her place on the list?
12. **The Beach House:** What is revealed about Bryce's life? About Justin's life? How are Justin's friends supportive? How are they enabling? What are the concerns of this group of friends? What does Justin do to numb his feelings?
13. **Why did Hannah die?** What is the significance of Hannah at the window turning into her mother just as she says "Losing a good friend is never easy especially when you never learned why you lost them."
14. **Bleak view of high school:** *Paranoid, on edge, you never know who you can trust.* How does this view compare to your high school? What are some negatives and positives of high school?
15. **The Ending Song:** The episode ends with the lyrics "Run boy run, they are trying to catch you." Why was this song chosen?

Episode 3: Alex

1. **The Butterfly Effect:** The episode starts off with a description of the butterfly effect. What is the butterfly effect? What was the start of the butterfly effect in Hannah's opinion? How did it (or did it not) set off other actions that later happened?
2. **Suicide Prevention:** Posters are seen around the school saying You Are Not Alone and Suicide is Not an Option. Are these types of posters effective? What would you put on a poster to help students feel heard and supported?
3. **Hannah's parents:** Hannah's parents are surprised by the lack of insight her locker holds into her life at school. Is it surprising to you how little her parents know about her social life--why or why not? How do your friends interact with your parents?
4. **Knowing others:** Likewise, Hannah's mom says "Anyone who knew her knew that she hated roses." Later in the episode Tony says, "You don't what's going on in someone's life." Is it ever possible to know all about someone? How do we reveal and hide parts of ourselves?
5. **The List:** Students are passing The List around in class. The teacher clearly knows something is going on. How does she address it? Does she address it adequately? Can you think of other ways the teacher may have dealt with this situation or clues she could have looked for that something big was happening?
6. **The List 2:** Is The List okay? Some students take it lightly, others are flattered and some, like Hannah, are horrified. Why do you think there are so many different reactions? Would girls make a list about boys and if so what kind-of reaction might it get?
7. **Hannah's hopes and dreams:** Hannah talks about going to college and wishing she could fast-forward the shitty parts. If Hannah had lived through high school, what kind-

of a life do you think she would have had? If you could have talked to her at that point, (knowing the end of the story) what would you have said?

8. **The List 3:** Why did Alex write the list? What kind-of masks does Alex wear? What is the symbolism of the story of the purple alligator?
9. **Blame:** Why does Jessica call Hannah a slut? Why is she mad at Hannah and not Alex?
10. **Bryce:** Hannah is harassed by Bryce. What could Hannah have done? Why do you think Clay bought the beer? Did he have any other choices? What kind of power does Bryce have and why?
11. **Boys' friendship:** Does the group of boys have authentic friendships? Why or why not? How is alcohol used? How do they talk about homosexuality? How do they use physical touch with each other? How do they express emotion? What does the saying "Buzzed or Beat Down" mean? Are those the only choices available?
12. **Clay gets drunk:** How did Clay's parents react to him being drunk? What might they have done differently to use this incident to connect with him?
13. **Clay jumps in:** What is the symbolism of Clay jumping into the water?

Episode 4: Tyler

1. **Social media and stalking:** Hannah says, "Social media has made us a society of stalkers and we love it." Is this true? How has social media changed public life? How does what Tyler does differ from social media stalking? How is it similar? Talk to your parents about differences when they were growing up without social media.
2. **Marcus:** Marcus says that what happened to Hannah at high school is no different from what happens to any other girl? Is this true? Does this make it okay?
3. **Costume Party:** What is the symbolism of the costume party? What is the symbolism of Jessica and Justin dressing as Sid and Nancy?
4. **Being open:** Part of Clay's consequence is no more closed doors--what is the literal and figurative meaning of that action? Do you think it will work?
5. **Graffiti:** The principal feels that there is no problem with bullying. He says "It's just graffiti, right?" Do you agree with him? Do you think it is possible that he truly isn't aware and what does this say about the culture of the school? What do you think the staff needs to do to build awareness and safety at school? Is there graffiti in your school's bathrooms? How is it handled?
6. **Tyler:** How is Tyler an outsider? Why is it better to stay "outside of it all?" How does he try to connect? Tyler seems to feel surprised when Clay tells him that stalking is a crime. Do you think that Tyler committed a crime—why or why not? Tyler is often seen around school camera in hand. What is the role of the camera?
7. **Stalking:** How do you think Hannah feels when she realizes she is being stalked? Why doesn't she tell an adult? Tyler says he is not a stalker he is the student life photographer. What kind-of permission does that give him? Is it "part of his job?"
8. **More on Blame:** Why doesn't Clay talk to Hannah's mother? Do you think that Clay feels it is his fault? What kind-of help do you think Clay needs right now? Is it damaging for various students to think it is their fault that Hannah died?

Episode five: Courtney

1. **Girls are Evil:** At the start of episode five, Hannah says that boys are assholes and girls are evil. Why does she say this? Is this the theme of this episode? Why does she mention both boys and girls even though the episode is about Courtney? Do you agree with her assessment of boys and girls--why or why not?
2. **More on Clay's Parents:** Clay's family continues to try and connect with him. What do they do well? What important things do they miss? If you were Clay's parents, how would you approach him?
3. **Courtney's Parents:** Courtney has gay parents and yet she is scared of being identified as gay by other students. She thinks that people will say that she is gay because of her fathers. What is the culture around LGBTQ students and allies at your school? Ask your parents what it was like when they were in high school?
4. **Gay Rumors:** What specific comments do you hear in this episode that are directed towards rumors of Courtney being gay? How does Courtney react to the rumors? How does Laura react? How does Hannah react? How would you react?
5. **Invisible:** Clay goes to the Cafe and orders a coffee. The name on the mug says Cray. Later in this episode, another popular student calls him by the wrong name. What is the symbolism of this?
6. **Secret Life of Teens:** How come the adults don't know that Clay was friends with Hannah? Why does Clay want to keep this secret? Do you feel it is important that your parents know your friends? In your school, do the parents know what goes on socially?
7. **Mr. Porter:** Tyler goes to talk to the new counselor Kevin Porter about his pants being pulled down in the hallway. Kevin seems to turn it around by asking Tyler what he is

doing to provoke this. Tyler seems to know that this is wrong. What kind-of power imbalance is in play here? If you were Tyler, what would you have done next?

8. **Judging:** Hannah says, "It helps to have a friend that doesn't judge you." How does this statement fit in Courtney's life? Who is she real around? What does she do to cover up her authentic self?

9. **The Limo:** Hannah wants her parents to rent a limo for the school dance. Why is this so important to her? Were you surprised that Hannah was not more skeptical? Did it fit with her personality? Although she seems tough and confident in some ways, what does this show about her inner world?

10. **Popularity:** Hannah says to her mom, "You have no idea because you were popular and I am not." In what ways can your parents relate to your social world and in what ways can't they? Do you think that having been popular herself, Hannah's mom can't quite grasp what it feels like?

11. **The Dance:** At the dance, Hannah pulls Jess away from Justin. Why? What does this say about her character? How has Jess's drinking impacted her decision-making?

12. **Visiting Hannah's Grave:** What happens to Courtney when she is taken to the grave of Hannah?

13. **Group Healing:** Clay accuses Courtney of treating Hannah's death like it is an after school activity. She replies that she is helping the school heal. What do you think of Courtney's positive motivation around healing activities? What difference, if any, is there between group healing and individual healing?

14. **Alex Speeds:** Alex starts speeding in the car and even his friends are alarmed. What is the significance of this?

15. **Alex's Dad:** Alex's dad is the cop and lets him off the hook. Were you surprised at the dad's reaction and leniency towards his son? Why does Justin think that now they are in control? What does this tell us about power?

16. **The Conclusion:** Has this episode confirmed Hannah's statement that boys are assholes and girls are evil? What evidence do you see for it? What evidence do you see against it in this episode?

Episode 6--Marcus

1. **Fighting:** Why does Alex start the fight? Why do the students watch? What does fighting look like in your school? Why does Clay see Alex's face merge into his own? Why is part of the fight filmed from above?
2. **Coping:** How are the various students coping with the secrets they are keeping?
3. **Hannah and Clay:** Contrast Hannah's interest in Justin (episode 1) vs. Hannah's interest in Clay? How has Hannah changed? Hannah says, "I'm always looking for the wrong person". Why does it appear easy for Hannah to flirt with others but not with Clay?
4. **Ryan:** What is the role of the school paper? How can it impact or effect change? Do you think Ryan should put the Valentine information in the paper at the risk of embarrassing someone? Why is there no same sex Valentine surveys? How else could Ryan change the system?
5. **Honor Board:** What is interesting about the students on the honor board? Do you think an honor board could be effective? Do you think an honor board could be dangerous? Why or why not? When Clay says, "Maybe it's all your faults," What does he mean?
6. **Valentines:** Jeff tries to help Clay with his Valentine survey. How does this help and/or hinder Clay.
7. **More about blame:** Hannah's mom says, "She was right here. She was in pain and she was reaching out. Maybe we should blame ourselves. If we weren't so fucking preoccupied with the store." Why is there a need to place blame? Knowing the bigger picture, can you see the problem with any one person taking the brunt of the blame?
8. **Laura:** Why is Laura so cynical? Why does she hate cheerleaders?
9. **Tony:** What do we learn about Tony this episode? Tony says he is sexting with people. Why do people sext? What are some possible consequences of sexting?
10. **Humiliation by parents:** Clay says that his parents are bonded by their shared love of humiliating him in every way possible. What does he mean by this? Do your parents embarrass you? Why or why not? Did their parents embarrass them? Would you rather have a parent that embarrasses you or one that stays completely out of your business?
12. **Jess and Justin:** How does Jess use her sexuality in her relationship with Justin? Why is she upset with him? What other feelings might she have in those moments after she is rejected? What do you think Justin was trying to communicate?

13. **Clay and Sheri:** What is the metaphorical meaning of the John Grady story? What is Sheri's reaction to the story? Do you think she genuinely likes Clay—why or why not?
14. **Marcus:** What do we learn about Marcus this episode? Was there any clues to his character before this scene? If so, what were they? If Marcus had been late and arrived without a pack of friends, would this have been different? Why or why not? In what ways does a large group bring on another type of mentality?
15. **Being easy:** Why does Marcus think Hannah is “easy”? What does it mean to be “easy”? Why did Hannah blame herself and think she may be alone for the rest of her life? Did she lead on Marcus? What could Hannah say to Marcus?
16. **Sherry:** Were you surprised that Sherry was on the tapes? Why or why not?.Is Sherry using Clay or is she authentic?
17. **Clay's mom concerned:** Clay's mom asks him if he is being bullied and Clay laughs. What does his laugh convey? Later Clay asks his mom how she knows he isn't the bully. His mom says, “Because I know you. You're a good kid.” Clay responds, “Maybe there aren't any good kids.” What does Clay mean?
18. **Alex's Dad and fighting.** Dad feels like Alex stood up for himself and he is proud? Do you agree with Alex's dad? Why or why not? Is there a time and a place for a fight? Why do schools have zero tolerance policies?
19. **Adults helping kids:** Clay says, “You can't help anyway mom.” Is this true? How can parents make bullying situations better? Worse? What is the ideal way for a parent to react to a bullying situation?
20. **Henry Charles Bukowski?** Who is Henry Charles Bukowski Junior? Is thinking about death a sign of having suicidal thoughts? What is the significance of “Don't Try.”

Episode 7—Zach

1. Being Lonely: This episode starts off with Hannah talking about the different ways one can be lonely. What kinds-of lonely do you think there are? Do you think there are some people who appear lonely and aren't and some that appear not lonely and are? What is the difference between being lonely and despair? How can you reach out to those you think may be lonely?

2. Drowning: Have you ever felt like you are drowning and no one will throw you a line? Have you known others who have felt this way? Has anyone ever thrown you the line? Have you ever been the line for anyone else? (In one high school students did a project called 13 reasons why not. In it, they talk about ways that they did find that life line.) Who has been a lifeline for you? What is Hannah's life line in this episode?

3. Suicide Clusters: There is a concern and research around copy-cat suicides. Once there is a suicide in a community others may see this as a viable option. Is Clay's mom right to be concerned?

4. Popularity: Often people say that popular kids are mean or that the popular kids will later be unsuccessful in life. Do you think this is true? Why does someone become popular? What could be the good sides and the bad sides of being popular? How could one use it for good or bad?

5. Weight: Praters says, "If you're getting fat-shamed, just lose weight". Is this simple answer viable? Why or why not?

6. Sports Hero: Why does Zach get his milk shake for free? How are sports heroes treated in this town? Does Zach know what it feels like to be lonely?

7. Zach and Hannah: Zach approaches Hannah at school and tells her that she was the Valentine he was waiting for. Hannah asks if it's because she's "easy" and Zach references her "great ass" in a bumbling kind-of way. Zach doesn't seem to realize that what he said was offensive. He then tells Hannah that she brought this on herself. How can Zach not realize how offensive this is? Would there be some people that would take the "great ass" as a compliment? Why or why not? Why does Zach react with anger? Does Hannah bring this on herself? Why or why not?

8. Zach and Friends: Zach goes back to his friends. They say, "What's the point of even attempting with that girl?" Clearly, Hannah is seen as high maintenance (I have even heard friends of mine say that she's annoying and/or hard to get along with). How is it hard to not play the game? What kind-of risks does Hannah take by standing up for herself?

9. **Mean disguised as kind:** Bryce says, “You guys leave Zach alone, he’s just desperate to lose it before his dad has to buy him a hooker.” Is there any part of this statement that seems kind? Is it hard to respond to passive aggressive statements? Would could Zach have said? What could the bystanders have said?

10. **Visual Hallucinations:** Clay begins having visual hallucinations. What is a hallucination? Should people who are having hallucinations of any kind be seen by a mental health specialist? Is there a stigma around mental illness? Should there be? Do you know that many youth and adults are treated for mental illnesses around hallucinations and recover with no future episodes? What is post-traumatic stress? How might this relate to Clay?

11. **Joy:** Clay’s dad asks if there is anything that brings you joy. What things bring you joy? Are there things that bring you joy that have nothing to do with friends and/or family? Why does that question feel important?

12. **Compliments:** Why does “a little paper” mean so much to Hannah? Why does the teacher do this activity? If you were Hannah’s communications teacher, what could you do instead that would be safer? What are some of the things that can go wrong with an activity like this that is meant to be positive? How does Hannah, Zach and Courtney use the compliment activity for personal gain?

13. **Compliment stealing:** Why does Zach steal the compliments? Do you think Hannah’s idea of catching him is a good one? How are both characters hurting inside? Any ideas of what they could have done differently?

14. **Zach’s car:** What is Skye’s role in this story? Skye tells Clay to “Stay angry.” What does she mean by this? Can anger be a good thing? Why or why not? Do you think it was okay for Clay to vandalize the car? Is it justified to feel angry towards someone who has not had the same problems as you? Why or why not?

15. **Concerning statements:** Tony says that Clay is going to get through it and Clay says he might not. At this point what can Tony do? (*Research has shown that the best thing you can do if you fear someone is contemplating ending their own life is to ask them. You*

could say, “Are you thinking about ending your own life?” This will not make a person suddenly decide to end their life, so you don’t have to worry about that when you ask. If the person says yes, you can ask them if they have a plan for ending their life? If the person is having suicidal feelings do not leave them alone and get to adult help as soon as possible. It is okay to break a friend’s confidence if the friend is thinking of suicide. Do not keep this a secret and tell a safe adult right away.”

16. Reading aloud: The communications teacher reads Hannah’s essay aloud. Why does Zach do nothing? How do others respond? Skye? The teacher?

Compliment back. What if the only way to stop feeling bad is to stop feeling anything at all forever. Why did zach not respond, looking for attention, maybe it’s a call for help, Sky knows it was not a joke. Whoever wrote it was in pain. High school is painful, excellent resources. Zach let everyone think it was Skye.

Karen and Zach: What is significant about Zach not throwing away the letter? How do the parents respond to the vandalism? How do the boys respond? Zach says that he didn’t know what to do? Do you feel you and/or your friends are equipped to handle big challenges? . Do you think Hannah lied?

Loneliness revisited: Hannah has a theory that Zach is lonely too or at least doesn’t feel truly seen? How are kids seen or not seen? The scene cuts to Jess leaving with Bryce, Clay freeing himself from the tapes, and Clay ranting about the fakeness of the school to the foreign exchange students. What do these final scenes say about loneliness?

Episode 8: Ryan

Music: Hannah says that some girls know all the lyrics to each other’s songs and hat they find harmony in their laughter. What does she mean by this?

Clay and Mr. Porter: Clay says, “Everyone wants to talk. No one wants to do anything.” What does he want to be done? Why does he avoid Mr. Porter?

Feeling Lost: Hannah admits to feeling lost and looking for anything to hang onto. Have you ever felt this way? What are some of the things available in your community as life lines for young people?

The Meeting: Who is at the meeting? Who is missing and why? Why does Justin suggest killing Clay? Do you think he is serious? Which characters are starting to stand up to Justin and how are they finding their strength? How does Justin react to the kids that challenge him? Why is Alex getting stomach aches?

Job Fair: Hannah points out that colleges are looking for kids to be original thinkers, but that high school doesn't foster this. Is this true at your school? She also believes her options are limited due to money and grades. What are your thoughts on this? Later in the episode, Mr. Porter tells her she may want to lower her expectations. Is Mr. Porter being realistic or is he putting down her dreams?

Poetry: Hannah goes to the poetry night at the library. How could the librarian become a potential ally for Hannah? Would Hannah's experience have been different if it had been a group for teens? What kind-of support might she have found? Does your community have any groups that foster authenticity?

Ryan and Journalism/poetry: Ryan believes that it's okay to have printed the list because it was already out there. Do you agree? Is there any other way that Ryan could have allowed the students to discuss the issue in a deeper way?

The Mountain Climb: Despite the absolute ridiculousness of this scene, why does Tony want Clay to climb the mountain? Why does he say, "Are you a man or not?" What does he reveal at the top? What is Clay feeling when he succeeds? What changes in Clay after the mountain? Tony refers to the scene after Hannah's death as a crime scene? Why? Do you agree or disagree?

Financial Worries: How are the financial worries of Hannah's family impacting her?

Dream: Hannah's mom says, "Allow yourself to dream a little. Hell, dream big about all the things you could be. Don't settle." Do you agree with Hannah's mom? How does this contrast with Mr. Porter and others putting down her dreams?

Karen and Olivia—Zach's mom reveals that Zach is getting offers from schools for basketball but that he wants to be a marine biologist. What does this reveal about dreaming big and dreams being dashed? What are your dreams? What are your parents' dreams for you? What is the balance between the two?

Ryan's Poem: What is Ryan's poem about? Why does Tony think he would never be friends with Ryan but as a lover it's different? Do you need to be friends with your boy/girl friend? Are you looking for the same type of qualities you would look for in a friendship? How did Clay react to finding out Tony is gay? How does Tony challenge stereotypes about gay men/boys?

Hannah's Poem: As a viewer, did you accept Ryan's apology? Was Ryan's apology authentic? Was his eventual betrayal of Hannah born from actual malice or from his own convictions about journalism?

Today I am wearing lacey black underwear

With the sole purpose of knowing I am wearing them

And underneath that I am absolutely naked

And I have skin

Miles and miles of skin.

I have skin to cover all my thoughts like saran wrap

That you can see what leftovers are there from the night before.

And despite what you might think

My skin is soft and smooth and easily scarred

But that doesn't matter right?

You don't care about how soft my skin is.

You just want to hear what my fingers do in the dark

But what if all they do is crack open windows—so I can see lightening over clouds.

What if all they crave is a jungle gym to climb for a taste of fresher air.

(another part of poem) It must be possible to swim in the ocean of the one you love without drowning.

It must be possible to swim without becoming water yourself.

Discuss Hannah's poem.

Publishing Hannah's Poem: Do you think that Ryan's idea that he was doing her a favor had any merit? Is Ryan's belief that our pain is important to other people true? Why did people laugh at her poem? Why did her teacher read it aloud? Should the school have worked harder to find out who wrote the poem? Was the fact that the journal wasn't school sanctioned a valid reason for not trying to find the hurting student? How does Clay's comment hurt Hannah?

Jess and Justin: Why does Justin not want to have sex with Jessica? How does Jessica take this and what does she assume? Why is Jessica's drug use increasing? What is Justin's reaction to this and what does it reveal about him? Compare Jessica's getting high to Clay climbing the mountain---how are they similar/different?

Olivia in the Restaurant: How does Olivia react to the mom with a kid? How and why do Alex and Clay make contact with Olivia? What is healing about this?

Clay's Dad: Clay's dad says "I'm glad you are alive." And Clay says "me too." What does this reveal about Clay's current state of mind?

Episode 9—Justin

1. **Bryce:** Why is this tape for Justin and not Bryce? Why is Bryce not on the tapes?
2. **New Start:** How is summer a new start? What does Hannah do to mark the occasion? What is she committed to do in her next year of school? How does she try to change herself? Is it true that you cannot change others and only yourself? Have you ever done something to symbolize a change?
3. **Brian and the Poem:** Do you agree that the school should accept no responsibility for not searching out the writer of the poem? Why does Ryan lie? Is it true that all teens write about angst? How should one know which poem or piece of writing to take as a real cry for help?
3. **Hannah goes to the Party:** It seems Hannah is wanting her mom to say no to the party. Do you agree? Do you think that Hannah was looking for something from her mom? Did she get the reassurance she needed? What might have been different if Hannah and her parents had talked about safety at parties beforehand?
4. **Revenge:** Clay wonders why it was okay for the group to seek revenge on Tyler, but not on Bryce/Justin. How is Clay getting stronger and clearer? How is he becoming more of a threat to the secrets everyone else is keeping?
5. **Marcus:** How is Marcus in some ways the most sophisticated and dangerous in his reaction to Clay? How come it is easy for Bryce to get the drugs? Who has more clout, student council or sports at this school?
6. **Invisible Man:** The class is reading this passage. I am invisible understand simply because people refuse to see me when they approach me they see only my surroundings, themselves or figments of their imagination. Indeed anything and everything but me. How does this relate to the story?
7. **Skye:** What is Skye's purpose in the story? How does she protect herself?
8. **Party:** Why does Hannah drink MORE at the party to continue feeling normal? Why do she and Clay not play the game? What do they reveal about their parents? Why is Hannah upset and concerned with Jess dating Justin?
9. **Clay and Mom:** How did you feel when Clay told his mom some truths? What does Clay share that is real and true? How does this help him?

10. **Hannah witnesses rape:** Both Hannah and Justin do nothing. Hannah says, “How can we live with that?” Why did they do nothing and do you think it was justified given the situation? Who had more responsibility to do something—Hannah? Justin? Both? Neither? Clay’s mom says that even if it can’t be prosecuted it shouldn’t stay a secret. Do you agree? How can secrets be damaging?

11. **Clay and Justin:** How does Clay confronting Justin show that he has changed? What do you notice about his tone of voice and his body language? Why does he feel Jess needs to know? Why does Justin not want Jess to know? Do you think it is important for Jess to know and why or why not?

12. **Tony and Clay:** Clay wonders how it is possible that not everyone is upset and angry. Why is no one responding to the rape? Why is everyone protecting Bryce? Tony brings up the thought that what would happen if they did try? Would Hannah be drug through the mud? Would Jess? Would it be a dead person’s word against a sport hero? What does this say about society? Do you know of any real stories that are similar to this one?

Episode 10—**Sherri**

1. **Jess and Justin:** Jess tells Justin that he is the best boyfriend ever and that he takes care of her. What is Justin’s response? In your opinion does he really love Jessica? Is it his responsibility to tell her what he knows?

2. **Jessica:** What are some of the various ways that Jessica is being self-destructive? How is this similar or different than other characters? What does Jessica’s rock collection say about her?

3. **Jeff and Clay:** How do Jeff and Clay support each other? How do their differences contribute to a strong friendship? Jeff seems to be popular but also not in with the Bryce’s group. What are the different ways to be popular and to use your popularity for good or not-so-good? What kind-of power does a popular person have? Why is Clay angry at Jeff after his death?

4. **Sherri and Hannah:** Why does Hannah not tell Sherri what she saw in the bedroom? Sherri comments that no real action happened at the party. What do you think she was looking for and why? Do you think there has to be drama for a party to be fun? Where was the drama happening? How come Sherri didn’t know about it?

5. **Sherri’s car accident:** Why does Sherri not want to address the accident? Was the accident Hannah’s fault or Sherri’s fault? Hannah indicates it’s not what happens but what happens after that matters. Do you agree with this? Hannah asks Sherri if she has been drinking and Sherri convinces her that she hasn’t. Do you think equal care should be given to distracted-driving? Can you think of other things Hannah may have said or done to convince Sherri to stay and take responsibility?

6. The accident: Whose fault is the accident? Was Mr. Cattrell at fault for talking on his phone? Was Jeff potentially driving drunk? Was it the stop-sign? How does blame work in life? How do we run to it or away from it?

7. Sherri after the accident: How does Sherri deal with her blame? Do you think befriending the Cattrell's is enough to assuage her guilt? Does Sherri's actions change your opinion of her character—why or why not? Why is she embarrassed by Clay knowing? Is she different from others on the tape? If so, how? Would coming to terms with her actions ruin her life as she seems to think it would? How and why may acknowledging her part in this be healing?

8. Ryan: Ryan says that he published a poem and Bryce is a racist. Does the fact that Ryan's act was not rape make him less culpable?

9. Drunk Driving: How does the school respond to drunk driving? Do you think Mr. Porter noticing that Hannah is distraught is helpful? Do you think it is important for teachers to roam the halls and be visible and how does that or does that not make the school feel safer?

10. Theater Nerds: While Jeff and Justin are kissing in the theater, Jess says that it may be helpful if they are caught so the theater nerds can learn about sex. How are the students that are into theater viewed at your school? Why does this stereotype exist? By putting people into groups like this, what may the students miss out on?

11. Lawsuit: What is a life worth? Do you agree with Clay's mom that the truth is the only settlement that matters?

12. Gun Safety: Jess's dad has locked up the guns, but Jess knows the combination. Would Jess's dad be surprised that she knows the code? Why is it important to keep the gun unloaded and the ammunition in a different place? Do you have guns in your home? How do your parents handle gun safety?

13. Who Killed Hannah Baker? Do you agree with Tony that yes Clay killed her? What role does Tony play? How is he helpful? How is he not helpful? Is Tony's wisdom authentic? Tony said, "we all let her down. We had to know that she had another choice". Does wishing or knowing that there were other things you could have done make one culpable?

Tape 11—Clay

1. Clay gets ready for party: Hannah says, "you are who you are and you don't care." The show cuts to Clay putting on cologne. In what ways is she right? In what ways does Clay want to fit in? What does coming early to the party say about Clay? What does Jess mean when she says, "make a choice Clay, be bold?" Is there someone at your school that you think fits in easily without trying at all? What may you be missing in making that assumption?

3. **Alex**—Alex says, “it’s a party so I am pretending to have fun.” What is happening with Alex and why? Why does Justin end up at Alex’s house? Have you ever faked having fun at a party because you felt like you were supposed to (but your mood didn’t match).

4. **Justin**—As a viewer, are your feelings towards Justin changing? Why or why not?

5. **Skye and Clay:** What is revealed about Skye and Clay’s past? What does Skye do to handle her pain? Why did Clay turn away from her in the hall Freshman year? What does it mean to be a “nice girl?” Are Hannah and Sherri nice girls? Why do they seem that way from Skye’s point of view.

6. **Tarot Reading:** Who is the tarot reading really about? How does it reflect the pain of the characters?

9 wands reversed—world against you

Hermit reversed—isolated and alone.

Ten of swords—pain of past. Can’t face sadness or fear, can’t move on.

Ace of cups—someone struggling inside. Tortured, emotionally.

7. **Cutting:** Cutting is said to be a symptom of a mental health disorder and/or a coping mechanism rather than a disorder in and of itself. Were you surprised to find out that Skye has been cutting? What would you do if you were Clay?

8. **Jess’s Rock Collection:** What does Jess’s rock collection say about her?

9. **Hannah and Clay:** What memories come up for Hannah when she starts being intimate with Clay. Why do you think that happened? How has the past situations she has experienced been internally damaging? Besides pregnancy and disease, what are some of the other reasons to wait to have sex? How did alcohol use contribute to this scene?

10: **Clay leaves:** Why did Hannah ask Clay to leave? Hannah then says, “Why’d you have to leave? It was the worst thing ever.” Is that fair? Why or why not? If you were in Clay’s shoes would you have left? If he had stayed, how might have this been seen by Hannah?

11. **Clay contemplates ending his life:** Tony tells him he is not to blame. How is Tony making things confusing for Clay? How does Tony get Clay off the cliff? On the way home, Tony checks in with Clay. He asks him if he’s good. How would it be if Tony was more direct and asked if he was contemplating ending his life? Should Tony drop off Clay and leave him alone while he is potentially suicidal? What should Tony do?

12. **Hannah and Clay:** Does Hannah not deserve Clay? Is the alternative scene cathartic for Clay? Is it realistic? If someone says to leave, how can you tell what they mean? How does this relate to consent? Was Clay right in thinking that at first Hannah welcomed his advances? How did her consent change? What have you learned about trauma from watching this episode?

13. **Jess and Justin:** When the rape accusation is said aloud, why does Jess slap Justin? What is the significance of the text from Bryce?

14. **Hannah's Shoes:** What is the symbolism of Hannah's mom finding the shoes?

Episode 12—Bryce

1. **Clay's Mom:** Clay's mom wonders if he had something to do with Hannah's death. It seems most parents assume their child is too kind to break consent or do something hurtful. Do you think that a person who appears polite and kind on the outside has the capability to do something hurtful? What do you think is running through Clay's mom's mind when she questions him?

2. **Bryce:** Throughout this episode Bryce appears to not know what he did wrong. Could this be true? Why or why not? How does he rationalize rape?

3. **Justin:** Is Justin's apology to Jess genuine? Jess says, "Are you trying to make excuses for what you did?" Do you, as a viewer, have any sympathy for Justin? Do you think any of his excuses are valid?

4. **Clay and Hannah:** What is the feeling between Clay and Hannah? How has each misinterpreted the other's actions? Is that awkwardness to be expected after breaking up? What is left unsaid?

5. **Hannah loses money:** How does Hannah feel when she loses the money? How do you think she felt having to tell her parents? How do her parents react? Why is losing the money a significant event in Hannah's story?

6. **Alex:** What is happening to Alex? How is he changing? What does it cost to protect Tyler? Alex says that he is a fucking weak pathetic loser who ruined the one good thing I ever had because I wanted a fucking rapist to think I was just like him. What does Alex realize about himself? Alex says, "If any one of us had still been friends with her she'd be alive." In your opinion is that true?

6. **Meeting in the tea shop:** What is the significance of Skye serving the tape recipients? How is Sherri's arc different than the others? What effect does calling Bryce a rapist have on the group? Ryan thinks that they can "control the narrative." What does he mean by that and how is it significant coming from his character? Courtney feels like what they did wasn't as bad as what Bryce did. Do you agree? Tyler talks about sacrificing Bryce to save themselves. Is it a

sacrifice? Which characters are legally culpable for their actions? Why does the group hate Tyler so much?

7. Tony: Tony is questioning his decision to keep the tapes secret. Do you think Tony has done right by Hannah? By Hannah's parents?

8. Feeling nothing: Hannah says the signs and symptoms of feeling suicidal look like nothing. What does she mean by that? Are there any other characters that are feeling nothing? Are there signs and symptoms that Hannah is feeling suicidal? As a viewer, do we see more of the signs and symptoms than any individual person?

9. Hannah gets raped: Do you think the show should have showed the rape? What do you notice about Hannah's face during and after the rape? How does Bryce justify the rape? What are some specific things he voices that justify his behavior. Can a "dead girl" have a say or does that exonerate Bryce? If not for the tapes, do you think Bryce would be let off the hook? What are some factors contributing to the culture of rape?

10. Hannah thinks people will say that there was more she could have done or should have done, but at the moment it felt like she was already dead. Do you agree? Is there more that Hannah could have or should have done? Is there more society should have or could have done? Do you think Hannah should be placing blame on herself or was to blame in anyway?

11. Blake and Clay: Blake says Why do you care so much? Go get yourself laid sometime and then come back and we'll talk like grown-ups. What is the irony of this statement? Why does Clay care so much?

12. Hannah decides to give life one more try. What does she mean by this? How have the tapes helped her?

Episode 13—Mr. Porter

1. How are other characters besides Hannah giving life one more chance: Sherri? Tyler? Jess?

2. Clay suggests that Jess tell about the rape and she is pretty horrified by that notion. Why does Clay want her to tell? Why does Jessica not want to tell?

3. Jess and Justin: Is there anything that Justin can do to make amends to Jess. As a viewer do you feel compassion for Justin? How has Justin changed in this episode?

4. Blake wins a game: Clay says to Hannah, "I feel like as a society our priorities are all out wack." Do you agree?

5. Hannah and Mr. Porter: Mr. Porter thinks Hannah has lots of friends. What is he not understanding? Mr. Porter asks how she wants to feel when she leaves the office. Hannah says, "I need it to stop. I need everything to stop. People. Life." Does Mr. Porter take this as seriously as he should? What responsibility does a counselor have when a child is at risk?

Hannah says she doesn't want to reveal the name. Is there really nothing that Mr. Porter can do if she doesn't reveal the name? How else could he have supported her? Why does he not chase after Hannah? In your opinion is Mr. Porter culpable? Do you think he did anything illegal?

6. Clay feels like he was so hurt by Hannah that he never for a second thought about what she may have been feeling. Should Clay feel guilty for this?

7. Clay and Mr. Porter seem to feel differently about blame. Mr. Porter says you can know all the signs and understand the issues and still come up missing something. Clay feels like they should all blame themselves. Whose version makes more sense to you?

8. How does Mr. Porter subtly place blame on Hannah for the rape? Can Hannah just "move on."?

9. Mr. Porter says, "we can't love someone back to life." What does he mean? Clay seems to think he is wrong. Who do you agree with? What positive action is Clay taking to love Hannah back to life?

10. The act of suicide is graphically depicted. Why do you think the director chose to do this? They have gotten a lot of criticism for showing a graphic scene. The mental health experts believe that seeing graphic scenes increases the risk of suicide. The producers/directors believe that it is helpful for teens to see that suicidal is a painful choice. They believe the subject needs to be talked about and shown. Who is right? Has the suicide rate for teens risen in your community? What resources are available to youth?

10. Clay asks Skye to hang out. Why is this significant?

11. What is Tyler up to? Why does he pull down Alex's picture?

12. What happens to Alex? What were some of the signs and symptoms he was feeling like ending his life? Are any other characters who you think are at high risk?

13. What does Jess do at the end of the show?

14. What does Justin do?

15. Why did Bryce not hear his tapes? How do you think he would have reacted?

16. Why is the last scene in Tony's car? What does listening to the radio represent? Do you have hope for these characters?

