

Talking About Trees Discussion Guide

How to Use this Guide: The discussion questions are listed after a brief summary of information about the film. If you watched the film with a group, use these questions to guide a conversation about the film. If you watched it alone, write down your answers to these questions to reflect on the film.

Film Description

Ibrahim, Suleiman, Manar and Altayeb have been friends for over 45 years. They left their motherland in the 1960s and 1970s to study film abroad and founded the Sudanese Film Group in 1989. After years of distance and exile, they are reunited, hoping to finally make their old dream come true; to bring cinema to Sudan. They are determined to leave something behind and ignite the love for cinema. Throughout the images they created, the ones they lost and the ones they had hoped to make, the beautiful and horrific faces of their country appear.

First Impressions

1. In a few words, how did the film make you feel?
2. What aspects of the film surprised you? What aspects of the film were familiar?
3. Was there a moment in the film that you found particularly inspiring or disturbing? What was it about that moment that moved you?

Reflection

1. How did the filmmakers and individuals in the film put themselves at risk? Why did they choose to do so?
2. How did the film group work to engage their community?
3. Reflect on the film “Rat” that Ibrahim directed. How does it reflect his personal experiences and that of the Sudanese people as a whole?
4. Is cinema political?

Connection

5. What did you learn from the film that you wish everyone knew? What would change if everyone knew it?
6. If you were going to tell a friend about the film, what would you say?
7. How did what you learned in the film change, challenge, or affirm your perspective on censorship?

You can access additional resources about the film [here](#) and look for ways to take action on the film festival website [here](#).

Several questions from the edublog “TUNE IN Next Time” by Faith Rogow, Ph.D., [InsightersEducation.com](#) 2019. All other rights reserved.