

SECRETARIAT

FAMILY DISCUSSION GUIDE

Rated PG: references to racetrack betting, 6 lightweight obscenities, peace movement during Vietnam era...

The purpose of these family movie discussion guides is to invite extended generations of family members to enjoy movies together. By doing so, it allows the generations to share movie insights from their unique perspective and even some memories of living during an earlier time period – a bit of history for the youngsters!

Secretariat is an inspiring family movie about a true story of one of the most successful racehorses of all time. The story took place from 1969-1973.

- The movie begins in Denver with Penny Tweedy and her family eating breakfast and talking about their day when Penny receives a call that her mother has died. Have you ever lost anyone close to you? Talk about how that felt and how you have worked through that. (*reminisce w/ pictures, write a note, visit the grave...*)
- The Tweedy family lived in Colorado and their parent/grandparents lived in Virginia on the family horse farm. Do you live close by your parents/grandparents? How often do you get to see each other? How do you keep in touch with long-distance family members? (*Skype, Facetime, write letters, family vacations to visit...*)
- Bull was a friend of Penny's dad who became a mentor to Penny. Do you have a mentor or someone you have mentored? Share the value of a mentor.
- Penny and her dad were very close. We see a few flashbacks and words spoken by Penny's father to her when she was younger. What are some of the special words spoken to you by your father?
- Penny's father had Dementia or Alzheimer's. Alzheimer's changes the lives of everyone it touches. Do you know anyone with dementia? Remember this: "They may not remember what you said, but they'll remember how you made them feel." For kids and teens to learn more about Alzheimer's, go to http://www.alz.org/living_with_alzheimers_just_for_kids_and_teens.asp
- Penny did her homework on the family horse farm. After the colt was born, Penny showed the colt to her dad and he said, "Let him run his race." Penny wants to honor her father's wish, but with the farm losing money and the taxes

exorbitantly high, she would be going against her brother and husband's counsel to sell the farm and horses. What kind of tensions could you feel for this family?

- How hard do you think it was for Miss Penny to be away from her family so much? How hard do you think it was for Mr. Tweedy to run the household?
- The Scripture and music in the movie reflect a Christian worldview. Look up and discuss the Scripture and lyrics and how they relate to this movie:
 - Job 39:22-25
 - *Oh Happy Day*
 - *It's Who You Are*
- Miss Penny, in talking to her horse after the Belmont Ball the night before the Belmont Stakes, said, "I've already run. I made it here. I didn't quit. I've run my race. Now you run yours." What did she mean?
- What virtues, values and character traits did you see displayed in this movie? *Vision, conviction, courage, determination, patience, forgiveness, mentorship, faithfulness, dishonesty, mistreatment, anger, inspiration, respect*
- Which character did you admire most? Why? What might life be like if you imitated the choices or behaviors of these various people?
 - Miss Penny Tweedy/Chenery
 - Mr. Chenery
 - Miss Ham the secretary
 - Eddie the stable hand
 - Mr. Phipps the millionaire
 - Poncho (Sham's owner)
 - Mr. Tweedy
 - Bull or Bull's son
 - Lucien the trainer
 - Ronnie the jockey
 - One of the Miss Penny's kids
 - Other _____
- BONUS: What 3 races make up the Triple Crown? *Kentucky Derby, Preakness Stakes & Belmont Stakes*

ACTION:

- We never know when it might be the last time we see one of our parents/grandparents. Take time to write them a letter or call them weekly, just to talk. Make a visit when you have an opportunity.
- Horses are therapy to many people. Perhaps your family can take a trip to a horse farm and/or go on a horse trail ride together for some great family time!
- We all need mentors and someone we can pour our lives into. Who can you seek advice from and who can you invest in who is younger?
- God gives each of us gifts, passions, purpose and conviction. Talk about how God has gifted each of you and recognize how you can support each other.

At the beginning and end of the movie we hear Job 39:22-25 quoted.

22 It laughs at fear, afraid of nothing; it does not shy away from the sword.

23 The quiver rattles against its side, along with the flashing spear and lance.

24 In frenzied excitement it eats up the ground; it cannot stand still when the trumpet sounds.

25 At the blast of the trumpet it snorts, 'Aha!' It catches the scent of battle from afar, the shout of commanders and the battle cry.

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At the Kentucky Derby, this traditional song is sung. We hear one verse of this cultural and historical song, but the full lyrics, written by Stephen Foster in the 1850's, describe the cruelty and heartbreak of slaves being sold down the river in verses two and three. Some have revised the song to try to sanitize history, but many still sing it in its original lyrics out of respect for African Americans, their slave experience and contributions to American culture and to remind the listener of the song's subject.

"My Old Kentucky Home," by Stephen Foster — Lyrics

The sun shines bright in the old Kentucky home,

Tis summer, the people are gay;

The corn-top's ripe and the meadow's in the bloom

While the birds make music all the day. The young folks roll on the little cabin floor

All merry, all happy and bright;

By'n by hard times comes a knocking at the door

Then my old Kentucky home, Good-night! Weep no more my lady. Oh! Weep no more today!

We will sing one song for my old Kentucky home

For the old Kentucky home, far away.

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After Miss Tweedy doesn't get the response from investors she needed by human efforts, she goes outside with Eddie and helps him give "Red" a bath. Eddie is listening to this song, which seems to give Miss Tweedy perspective & resolve.

OH HAPPY DAY

Oh happy day - (Oh happy day); Oh happy day - (Oh happy day)

When Jesus washed - Oh when he washed; When Jesus washed - He washed the sins away

He taught me how to watch, Fight and pray - Fight and pray (Refrain)

This song was sung at the very end of the movie when the credits were rolling. Talk about its lyrics and meaning for the movie and you personally where you are at today.

IT'S WHO YOU ARE

By Aj Michalka

It's not the price; It's not the game; It's not the score; It's not the fame
Whenever road looks way too far, It's not what you have; It's who you are.

It's not how fast; It's not how far; It's not of cheers; It's who you are
In darkest night; You make your sun; You choose your race; And then you run.

It's never the glory; It's never the score; It's not about seeing who's less and who's more
'Cause when you found out how fast and how far, You'll know it's not how much you have
It's who you are

You lose the moon; Then be a star; It's not too soon; Be who you are.
Whenever road looks way too far; It's not what you have; It's who you are.

It's never the glory; It's never the score; It's not about seeing Who's less and who's more
'Cause when you found out how fast and how far, You'll know it's not how much you have;
It's who you are

When you have found How fast you can run; When you have found Your place in the sun,
It won't be just you that you'll find Has made the run and the climb; It's everyone

It's never the glory; It's never the score. It's not about seeing Who's less and who's more.
'Cause when you find out how fast and how far you'll know it's not how much you have,
It's who you are

It's who you are

Learning to bend and not to break; Living to give more than you take
Dying to live; Living to try. Feet on the ground; Dreams in the sky.
It's never how much you have; It's who you are