

Monica

I Didn't Know

Family Discussion Guide

EYFP

These are some sample questions for Episode 9. Use the ones that seem helpful or interesting. You may have your own questions as well.

Opening

Read Clarissa Pinkola Estés's essay, Letter to a Young Activist During Troubled Times: Do Not Lose Heart, We Were Made for These Times. You can read the entire essay here: <https://www.dailygood.org/story/1538/do-not-lose-heart-we-were-made-for-these-times-clarissa-pinkola-estes/>

Or to listen to the entire essay: <https://youtu.be/74wvzE88T-U?t=135>

To listen to an excerpt: <https://youtu.be/IH6O0O-CMNA?t=73>

What sentence did you find to be the most meaningful?

Today, when we watch the video, think about how that sentence could apply to Monica or her family.



Vocabulary Alert!

In this episode, we learn that Jayce has been sent to a diversion program (say “die-ver-shen proh-gram”). Diversion programs are special systems that help people, like juveniles, people who are battling addiction, or people suffering from mental illness, get the services they need instead of a jail cell or court record. Different programs serve different groups of people, and not all court systems offer diversion programs.

When diversion programs are available, they usually require people to accept responsibility for the harm they caused and find a way to make up for it. They may require counseling, therapy, or community service as part of the deal. The focus in a diversion program is on healing and rehabilitation rather than punishment.

- At the beginning of Scene 2, why do you think Layla acts the way she does towards Monica?
- In Scene 2, Layla says, “I always thought drug addicts were, like, bad people, not people I hung out with.” Why might she have said this statement?
- Monica responds to Layla saying, “Yeah, it’s really scary. I’m so glad you–” but she doesn’t finish her sentence. What do you think she was going to say, and why might she have decided to change the subject instead?
- In Scene 3, Monica’s father mentions college. Why does Monica react the way she does?
- What do you think might happen with Monica and her family after Episode 9? Explain.

Continued

Closing Questions

There are three closing questions. The first question asks participants to apply their ideas to the fictional story shown in the video, while the other two questions ask them to apply their ideas to their own lives. Participants may spontaneously address the first question, but be prepared to ask it if they do not. .

- -In her essay, Letter to a Young Activist During Troubled Times: Do Not Lose Heart, We Were Made for These Times, Clarissa Pinkola Estés writes, “Ours is not the task of fixing the entire world all at once, but of stretching out to mend the part of the world that is within our reach.” In what ways did Monica learn to “[stretch] out to mend the part of the world that is within [her] reach”?
- -In what ways has our work helped you to “[stretch] out to mend the part of the world that is within our reach”?
- -Using your own experience as a guide, what would you tell someone who is just starting this program?

Family Fun!

Start a Resilience Jar. You will need a large, clean jar or bottle, pieces of paper, and something to write with.

Whenever you notice someone in your family displaying resilience, write it down on a strip of paper and drop it in the jar. Over time, watch your jar fill up with reminders of how resilient you can be.