

Discussion Guide for “Full House” Analysis

Objective:

This discussion guide is designed to facilitate conversations around the themes of loneliness, isolation, inauthenticity, and the courage to connect, as portrayed in the provided script. The guide encourages participants to solely reflect on the characters’ experiences, explore their motivations, and relate the scenarios to broader social and personal contexts.

Introduction (5-10 minutes)

1. Opening Remarks:

- Watch the production
- Identify and discuss the central themes
- Explain the purpose of the discussion to explore the characters’ emotions, motivations, and the broader social issues that influence their lives.
- Encourage open and respectful dialogue, reminding participants that the discussion is a safe space to share thoughts and feelings.

2. Initial Impressions

- Ask participants for their immediate reactions to the production.
 - What stood out to them about the characters and their situations?
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Character Analysis (20-30 minutes)

1. Dude

- Another character calls Dude the “resident trans elder.” What ways does Dude guide the others as a trans elder?
- In some ways, Dude shows an unwillingness to engage in the conversation about Orly. What do you think this shows about Dude and the process of grief?

2. Bootsy

- Bootsy recounts being rejected by their parents, saying that their dad “went totally mental.” Discuss the ways that Bootsy is affected by this rejection.
- Bootsy questions whether getting together to play poker actually “helps” with the isolation they feel as trans and non-binary people, and then says, “Is this all I have to look forward to? A long life of obstacles?” What systemic issues is Bootsy referencing?

3. Georgy

- Georgy talks about “micro-agressions” such as the “side-eye” and pointing. How do these micro-agressions affect Georgy, and how might they relate to isolation?
- Georgy says “it’s the journey that counts, not always the destination.” Discuss what you think Georgy means by this, and how this wisdom might be used by others.

4. Sandy

- Sandy says “While there are many of us, the transition journey can be a solitary one.” What do you think that Sandy means by this? Discuss ways that a journey can be a solitary one, even if others are on the same journey.

5. Pinky

- Pinky recalls coming out to her parents and them having a negative reaction, then later reflects on systemic transphobia, recounting that her supervisor directed her to work by herself because coworkers felt uncomfortable. How are these issues related to the themes of isolation and loneliness?
- Pinky suggests that other genderqueer people need support to “make the journey less lonely for them.” In what ways do the characters support each other in their journey?

Thematic Exploration (15-20 minutes)

1. Family Rejection

- Discuss the role that family rejection has in the isolation of the characters. What ways have you seen family rejection cause isolation for yourself or others you know?
- Discuss the characters’ struggle with being their authentic selves, and how pressures from family may have caused them hesitance from taking their journey.

2. Systemic oppression

- The characters discuss instances of systemic oppression, including oppression by the legal system. Discuss the ways that this kind of oppression adds to social isolation and loneliness.
- How do these pressures affect their ability to connect with others, and what steps do the characters take to overcome the obstacles?

3. The Courage to Connect

- Despite their fears and uncertainties, each character takes a step toward connection. Discuss the significance of these actions.
 - What can we learn from their attempts to reach out to others, even in small ways?
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Relating to Broader Context (10-15 minutes)

1. Mental Health

- This script focuses on the death of the characters' friend Orly. How do the themes of the script tie into the issue of mental health. Discuss ways that issues surrounding mental health could better be addressed in our society.

2. Personal Reflections

- Invite participants to share if they can relate to any of the characters' experiences. How have they dealt with similar challenges?
 - What steps can individuals take in their own lives to overcome loneliness and be more proactive in being social and accepting new challenges?
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Conclusion (5-10 minutes)

1. Closing Thoughts:

- Summarize the key points discussed and invite any final reflections.
- Encourage participants to think about how they can apply insights from the discussion to their own lives and communities.

2. Next Steps:

- Offer resources or suggest further readings on the topics discussed
 - If appropriate, invite participants to continue the conversation in a follow-up session or in other settings
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This guide is intended to encourage thoughtful and empathetic conversations, helping participants to engage deeply with their characters' struggles and triumphs, and to connect to these fictional experiences to real world challenges.

*Whether you're facing mental health struggles, emotional distress, alcohol or drug use concerns, or just need someone to talk to, 988's caring counselors are here for you. **Call or text 988**, Suicide and Crisis Lifeline, or text HOME to 741741. Talk to trained counselors who care, 24/7/365

If you or a loved one is at imminent risk, please contact 9-1-1 and ask for a Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) officer.